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Town Clerk Forfar
Nov. 1915

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE

CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND

1738-59

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[V. 6]

Published for the Convention of Royal Burghs

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No. 42

BURGH OF FORFAR

The Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland.

21 *Castle Street, Edinburgh,*
8th November 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing the new Volume of "Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland, 1738-1759." Please fill up and return the annexed form of receipt.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. OFFICER, W.S.,
Agent of Convention.

To the Town Clerk. Forfar. 9th Nov. 1915. - Acknowledged.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume contains extracts from the Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland from 4th July 1738 to 15th May 1759. It is a continuation of the series published some years ago, consisting of five volumes and a separate index volume. Those earlier volumes contained extracts or Minutes of the Convention proceedings from 10th January 1295 to 4th April 1552, and practically continuous Minutes of the meetings during each year from the latter date to 1738. Each volume had a preface by Mr James D. Marwick (afterwards Sir James Marwick), who was successively Town Clerk of Edinburgh and Glasgow. These prefaces give interesting and instructive explanations regarding the constitution, history, and functions of the Convention.*

These Convention Records show that the Scottish Burghs in an associated form have continuously from the thirteenth century, and probably long before, discussed in Convention or representative assembly the affairs in which they were interested. Their proceedings, deliberative, legislative, judicial, and administrative, amid changing customs, and often in troublous times, reflect the position held by the burghs in the economic development of the nation through these

* Manuscript Minutes of the Convention proceedings have been preserved in an unbroken series from the date of the published volumes to the present day.

centuries of Scottish history. These brief references, so prosaic in themselves, to subjects discussed with living interest by so many generations, supply valuable material to the historian who seeks to reconstruct the past; and they throw light upon much of our present national life.

Do members of the Convention, when they assemble in their annual meeting, sometimes reflect that they are carrying on the work of possibly the oldest representative institution in the world, possessing written records extending over more than five centuries, besides traces of those of a still earlier time?

The period embraced in the present volume—1738 to 1759—forms an important link in the chain of our national history. The whole of it lay within the reign of King George the Second. It was the period of Wesley and Whitefield in England; and Oliver Goldsmith was then a medical student in Edinburgh. Apart from the rising of 1745, under Prince Charles Edward Stuart, which occurred in it, there was no outstanding event within Scotland itself. The placid even tenour of the Convention Records shows the outward calm with which the people went on their way in the slow growth and development of Scottish civilisation. But beneath the surface and around them there were forces at work which were soon to produce a social and industrial revolution that changed the fixed ideas and policy of the earlier time and removed the ancient landmarks.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the interests of the Convention were confined to the affairs of the burghs within their narrow geographical limits. The policy of the time was indeed founded upon privilege and exclusion, but they dealt with questions of foreign trade and intercourse, not only with "our auld enemies of England," but with the nations of the Continent, and the Colonies over-seas; and such questions loomed larger and larger on the horizon. It is striking to observe how much the assembled burgesses devoted their attention to matters which centred in foreign lands and were for that time of world-wide interest. Their point of view might be that of the

little Scottish burgh, and the possibly selfish interests of the burgesses, but their outlook and their efforts embraced a wider range.

The representative of the House of Hanover was on the Throne, but even apart from the sharp reminder of the '45 rising, the claim of the exiled House of Stuart was never far away. All the members of the Convention had to "'Qualify' to His Majesty King George II., by taking the oaths of allegiance and abjuration, and subscribing the same with assurance." The men who took these oaths did so in full view of the possibility that their loyalty might any day be sternly put to the test.

The meetings of Convention were held annually in the month of July; and during the period to which the volume applies there were twenty-one of these. Throughout the year between the general meetings, the business was carried on by a committee, called the "annual committee" acting with powers, and subsidiary committees. All the meetings were held in Edinburgh, and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, when he was available, was always elected preses. There is one notable exception—the Convention of 1746—when the Lord Provost of Glasgow was chosen preses in circumstances which deserve special mention.

In that year the Convention was held as usual in Edinburgh, and no express mention is made in the Minutes of anything extraordinary in the circumstances of the time. But a glance at the Minutes shows that there was no Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and no representative from the City of Edinburgh in the Convention; and there were eighteen burghs unrepresented.

In the previous year, 1745, the Convention had been held without any indication of anything unusual impending. Archibald Stewart, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who had previously represented the City in Parliament, had occupied the chair, and had also presided at the annual committee held on 12th July. In view of subsequent events, it is interesting to note that the Convention in their own name, and in name of their constituents, minuted "their grateful acknowledgment to the

honourable and worthy gentleman, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and preses of this Convention, for the faithful and diligent discharge of his duty in Parliament, and promoting the interest of the country, and particularly that of the Royal Burghs on all occasions."

From the date of the annual committee on 12th July 1745 to 6th February 1746 no meetings were held. On the latter date the committee meetings were resumed, and in due course the Convention of July 1746 met as already stated. What was the explanation of the absence of the Edinburgh representatives? Beyond a casual reference in the Minute of 2nd July 1746 to there being no "regular magistracy in Edinburgh" at the time, the Minutes throw no light on the point, but the explanation is found from other sources.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart landed in Argyllshire in August 1745. The forces he could muster were at first few, but increased as he slowly marched by way of Stirling to Edinburgh. The Royalist forces under Sir John Cope, who should have defended the City, went north to Inverness and thence to Aberdeen; and accordingly, so far as they were concerned, the way was clear for the march to Edinburgh. Prince Charles arrived at Corstorphine on 15th September, and entering the City unopposed, took up his residence in Holyrood Palace on 17th September. The Town Guard was powerless to resist; and the Lord Provost and Magistrates, who had a month before expressed their loyalty to the King in a formal address, had no forces available. What could they do to raise and organise effective resistance in the course of a few days, especially when doubtless a considerable number of the citizens sympathised with the invaders?

The company of dragoons sent to meet the rebel forces at Corstorphine galloped away; and the Commander of the Castle contented himself with retaining the stronghold. Sir John Cope returned to Dunbar by sea from Aberdeen, and the highlanders met and defeated his forces at Prestonpans on 21st September. Prince Charles and his followers remained in the City until 31st October when they set out on their ill-starred march to England, from

which they only returned to be finally overthrown at Culloden in April 1746.*

The connection between these events and the absence of the Edinburgh representatives from the Convention of 1746 is this: According to the constitution or "sett" of the burgh, the members of the Town Council, including the Lord Provost, went out of office annually, and their successors were chosen immediately after Michaelmas in the end of September. The elections were an elaborate affair, in which the various trade incorporations made up leets from which the retiring Council chose the members for the succeeding year. Accordingly, while the City was in possession of the rebels, it fell to the Town Council to meet and choose the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors, and also the representatives in the Convention in place of those who demitted office. With the City firmly in the grip of the

* The treatment accorded to Lord Provost Stewart forms a dark episode in the sequel to the occupation of the City by Prince Charles Edward. The Lord Provost, notwithstanding his acknowledged public services and his prominent connection with the loyal addresses of the Council to the King, the efforts he made to raise a force for defence within the few days available, and his courageous bearing while the City was in possession of the invaders, was charged with high treason, for having allowed the highlanders to enter the City. Within a month after Prince Charles left Edinburgh the Lord Provost was arrested in London. He was examined before the Privy Council, imprisoned for two months, released on £15,000 bail, and then prosecuted before the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, until eventually the jury unanimously found him not guilty. These proceedings went on for about two years. A full report of the trial was published in book form at the time; and it is melancholy reading. The accusers could not point to any directly treasonable act or word of his, or the omission of any act on his part, humanly possible, which would have kept the rebels out of the City. How then could failure to do something impossible, which his accusers could not even suggest, amount to high treason? But evidently they thought that a detailed account of the confused events of these two or three excited days, especially what was said and done by the Lord Provost, however trivial and irrelevant, aided possibly by anticipated prejudices of the jury—even his name might be against him—would serve the purpose. The prosecution failed, however, and history will endorse the verdict of the jury. Lord Provost Stewart had to leave the City, but it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that he was the victim of personal or political rancour. He afterwards settled in London, and it is pleasing to learn that he became an eminent, and presumably prosperous, merchant. He died at Bath in 1780, in the eighty-third year of his age.

invaders, no Royalist forces at hand, and the citizens wholly at the mercy of the "wild highlanders," it would have required great courage for the members to take the oath of allegiance to King George and abjure the Pretender, and brave the probable consequences. It is hardly surprising that many of them thought discretion the better part of valour, and did not attend. Three times the Council met for the purpose of making the election, but no quorum was found, and no election could be made. Lord Provost Stewart attended all these meetings, and it was not his fault that the election fell through.

For fourteen months there were no Magistrates or Council in Edinburgh. The Convention, indeed, placidly resumed its meetings of committee on 6th February 1746, and the Convention met on 1st July 1746, when, as already mentioned, the Lord Provost of Glasgow was preses. At length, on petition to the King, authority was obtained to proceed to the election of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Edinburgh, notwithstanding the provisions of the "sett"; and the election was duly made in January 1747, when the celebrated George Drummond became Lord Provost and took his place as preses of the Convention and its committees.

The burgesses of the Royal Burghs, in respect of their bearing a share of the national land tax, enjoyed the exclusive privilege of trading within their burghs and of foreign trade—in exports and imports by the sea; and the burghs of regality and barony were admitted to these privileges in consideration of also sharing in that burden. An exception was admitted in favour of noblemen and Barons to allow them to export the produce of their own lands and import goods in return for their own use, but not for sale, and latterly an exception was made in favour of manufactures and societies for fishing.

These privileges were of great value and were jealously guarded. A large part of the time and the efforts of the burghs was occupied with the enforcement of their rights against unfreemen. Arrangements were made with the authorities of the low countries on the Continent

by which a certain town—during this period it was Campvere in Holland—called the "staple" town, became the emporium for all Scottish goods. All the exports from Scotland must go there and be distributed through the recognised channels; and all the imports must come from there. The Scottish goods were favoured in the matter of dues and charges as against English or other goods. To secure these privileges there was a formal detailed contract between the Convention and the State and civic authorities of Campvere. This staple contract was renewed from time to time and was held in high regard—it was almost constantly before the Convention for one purpose or another. Its operation involved an expensive staff of officials, and frequent intercourse by personal visits.

One of the concomitants of the trade restrictions, namely, smuggling, comes in for due reprobation. Through this practice, it was complained, "the universal and excessive use of tea and foreign spirits, to which all ranks even the very meanest people are tempted by the low prices, had supplanted the consumption of malt liquors and spirits made of grain of the growth of the country"—a complaint made with all the more seriousness because the burghs had a revenue from an impost of 2d. a pint on malt liquors which the smuggled goods escaped.

By the Treaty of Union the whole United Kingdom was to enjoy the same trade privileges, but by the 21st Article it was provided that the rights and privileges of the Royal Burghs should remain entire as before. How far these two provisions were compatible the burghs were to find out in due time.

The Union of the Kingdoms necessarily brought important changes in the relations of the Scottish Burghs to England and to the over-seas trade. It became increasingly difficult as the years went on to keep up the old exclusive privileges which had bulked so largely in the proceedings before the Union. The struggle to retain what was slipping from their grasp is obvious in the proceedings of the period. With anxious forebodings the burgesses beheld the old system, to which they clung so tenaciously as bound up with their prosperity, passing away.

The manufacture of linen was regarded as the "staple" of the Scottish Burghs. There are many references in the Records to efforts made to foster this industry. The Treaty of Union had promised a fund to be employed in the encouragement and promoting of fisheries and such manufactures and improvements in Scotland as might most conduce to the general good of the United Kingdom. The burghs made persevering efforts to press for the fulfilment of this, and according to Hill Burton these efforts led to the creation of the Board of Trustees for the encouragement of improvements and manufactures whose recent history is well known, and the establishment of the British Linen Company, now one of the leading Scottish banks. The efforts in connection with the linen manufacture run like a thread through the whole period. A sum of £100 was given by the Honourable Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons, to be offered in prizes for the best diaper * table napkins. The Convention conducted the competitions which are mentioned from time to time in the Records. Dunfermline's eminence in these competitions laid the foundations of its prosperity as a centre of linen manufacture. The Convention instructed their Members of Parliament to support all measures for promoting and enlarging the linen manufacture, and charged them "to cultivate a strict friendship with the West India proprietors which is so useful to us, and to have a tender regard to the interest of our Colonies which are the great support of our manufactures." In accordance with the same politic principle, the Convention in 1748 sent a deputation to Holland to arrange for a prolongation of the staple contract, and to congratulate His Serene Highness the Prince of Orange upon his admission to the rank and dignity of Stadtholder of the United Provinces.

* The name "diaper cloth," which has survived to the present day, is derived from the town of Ypres in Belgium, which has been in recent days imperishably associated with the glorious deeds of the British Army in the great war now going on. The cloth d'Ypres when passed through English pronunciation becomes the diaper cloth of the present day.

The assistance rendered by the Convention to burghs in need, for the formation of harbours and otherwise, enabled many of them who hold an important place to-day to tide over their difficulties; and contributions were given for various purposes, such as towards the founding of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; the Edinburgh Royal Exchange; and towards the work of Maitland, the historian of Edinburgh, and other authors.

1746.

The Rebellion of 1745 led to the passing of the Heritable Jurisdictions (Scotland) Act, 1746, and the Tenures Abolition Act, 1746. Before that time the landowners of Scotland held certain feudal rights of jurisdiction under which they could try offences, real or alleged, to the exclusion of the Courts and Judges appointed by the Crown. It was a great temptation to impecunious Barons to be able to impose fines which they retained for their own benefit. They could legally fine or imprison and even inflict the death penalty, although the latter had to a great extent fallen into disuse. There were also in ward holdings numerous feudal exactions with which they could harass and impoverish their vassals, who were further bound to render services, military as well as civil, when required. Such a system was liable to great abuse, and its operation was harsh and oppressive to the people. If the exclusive privileges held by the burghs led to hardship and even injustice to the unfreemen who were outside their pale, the lot of the unfreemen in the burghs was freedom itself compared to that of the common people under the feudal jurisdictions in the counties. Moreover, it was found that such a system lent itself to the purposes of a rising like that of 1745. The Acts of 1746 abolished these heritable jurisdictions and ward holdings, taking away many of the oppressive exactions on the vassals, releasing them from military service to the local Barons, suppressing the private courts of justice, and opening the King's Courts with like justice to all according to impartial laws. These formed great emancipating Acts which laid the foundation for the modern developments. The nation

was on the eve of a great commercial and industrial advance which could not have been possible under the shackles of the earlier time. Further, the long struggle with France for the possession of the New World and India was going on in many widely severed parts of the world, and, in a way which could not be realised by the men of the period under consideration, the foundations of that vast British Empire which has shown its unity and might in our own day were being laid. If the burghs were about to part with much that they held dear, they were to find compensation in the general prosperity which was to follow under a system of freedom and enterprise, and with a world-wide opportunity.

The Echoes of War.

Throughout the period there are echoes of war in the Convention proceedings. From 1739 to 1748 Great Britain was embroiled in the wars on the Continent, now almost forgotten, associated with the battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy. It was at Dettingen that King George the Second in person led his troops to victory—the last time that any British sovereign has led his troops in person in actual warfare. Before the close of the period, the Seven Years' War with France had begun, which resulted in the conquest of Canada.

For the greater part of the period, therefore, the shadow of war in which the British troops were engaged was over the nation—though fortunately, except for the brief episode of the Stuart rising, there was no fighting in the home land.

The foreign trade of the burghs was directly affected by the wars and the privateering operations arising out of them. There are frequent applications to the Admiralty for ships of war as convoys for the protection of merchant vessels from privateers; and there are not a few references to the pressgang.

Times of Crisis.

Now and again there is a note of anxiety in a time of trial and crisis. When the war with France was declared in 1756 the Convention

presented an address to the King, assuring him of their loyalty and support "in the present critical circumstances of the nation."

The period closes in 1759 in what the Records describe as "the present critical situation of affairs." The war now known as the Seven Years' War was still in mid-career, and the fate of the nation was trembling in the balance, but we find no trace either of fear or despair. With calm steady resolve the nation set itself to the task, and we know now that at the end of that stern struggle it emerged triumphant, and one of the results was the permanent annexation of Canada to the dominions of the British Crown.

"Not once or twice in our rough island-story" has the British nation stood at bay amongst its foes, consisting of great world powers, and yet has overcome them. Again and again the dark clouds have gathered overhead and storms have threatened its destruction; but it has come forth triumphant and entered on a career still more glorious and beneficent than before. It is a far cry from the middle of the eighteenth century in the Scottish Burghs, or even the national struggles in which their anxieties were centred, to this second decade of the twentieth century when the British nation stands once more in a critical situation in mortal combat with great world powers, where the issue is life or death. With a determination which has gathered into it all the heroisms of its past, the nation is now waging the mighty war, but this time it does not stand alone. By its side there stand the heroic hosts from those Dominions beyond the seas which are themselves the fruit of the great struggles of the past. Once more the nation sets itself with undaunted courage to the struggle, and looks forward with unflinching hope to a triumphant issue and the opportunity of working out the great destiny for which all the past has been preparing it.

THOMAS HUNTER.

INVERARBOUR,
INVERLEITH PLACE,
EDINBURGH, 30*th August* 1915.

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,,	,,	21.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 26] - -	325
,,	Oct.	12.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 27] - -	326
,,	Nov.	14.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 29] - -	329
,,	Dec.	11.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 32] - -	332
1750.	Jan.	13.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 32] - -	332
,,	Mar.	6.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 33] - -	333
,,	April	12.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 34] - -	334
,,	,,	14.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 35] - -	335
,,	,,	17.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 37] - -	337
,,	May	1.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 38] - -	338
,,	,,	4.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 39] - -	339
,,	June	7.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 40] - -	340
,,	July	3-5.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 42] - - -	342
,,	,,	6.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 89] - -	361
,,	,,	24.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 91] - -	362
,,	Sept.	5.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 92] - -	364
1751.	Jan.	15.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 93] - -	365
,,	Mar.	8.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 95] - -	367

Date of Convention.				Page
1751.	May	17.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. xii. p. 96] - - - -	368
,,	July	2-4.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 99] - - -	369
,,	,,	5.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 126] - -	388
,,	Oct.	14.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 127] - -	388
,,	Dec.	26.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 128] - -	390
1752.	April	23.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 129] - -	391
,,	June	18.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 130] - -	391
,,	July	7-8.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 131] - - -	392
,,	,,	9.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 151] - -	405
,,	Aug.	25.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 152] - -	406
1753.	Jan.	25.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 154] - -	408
,,	June	19.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 158] - -	412
,,	,,	26.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 159] - -	413
,,	July	3-5.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 160] - - -	414
,,	,,	6.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 178] - -	428
,,	Aug.	2.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 180] - -	430
,,	Oct.	9.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 181] - -	431
,,	,,	23.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 182] - -	432
,,	Nov.	20.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 184] - -	434
,,	Dec.	14.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 187] - -	437
,,	,,	19.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 191] - -	442
1754.	Feb.	20.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 192] - -	442
,,	July	3-5.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 193] - - -	443
	,,	6.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 213] - -	459
,,	Nov.	14.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 217] - -	463
,,	,,	26.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 219] - -	465
,,	Dec.	12.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 233] - -	478
1755.	Feb.	4.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 235] - -	479
,,	Mar.	25.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 236] - -	480
,,	May	30.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 237] - -	481
,,	July	9-11.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 238] - - -	482
,,	,,	12.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 275] - -	503
,,	Aug.	2.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 277] - -	505
,,	Oct.	9.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 279] - -	506

Date of Convention.				Page
1755.	Nov.	11.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. xii. p. 281] - - -	508
1756.	Feb.	20.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 283] - -	510
,,	July	6-8.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 284] - - -	511
,,	,,	9.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 307] - -	528
,,	Aug.	6.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 308] - -	529
,,	,,	23.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 310] - -	530
,,	Sept.	16.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 311] - -	531
,,	Dec.	1.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 313] - -	533
,,	,,	28.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 314] - -	534
1757.	Jan.	18.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 315] - -	534
,,	Feb.	3.	Meeting of Annnal Committee [*Ib.* p. 316] - -	536
,,	,,	4.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 317] - -	536
,,	,,	22.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 318] - -	537
,,	Mar.	8.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 320] - -	539
,,	,,	28.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 321] - -	540
,,	April	22.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 322] - -	541
,,	July	5-7.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 325] - - -	543
,,	,,	8.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 344] - -	558
,,	,,	28.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 345] - -	559
1758.	April	6.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 346] - -	560
,,	July	11-13.	General Convention [*Ib.* p. 348] - - -	562
,,	,,	14.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 372] - -	583
,,	Dec.	29.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 373] - -	584
1759.	Jan.	18.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 375] - -	587
,,	Mar.	2.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 376] - -	588
,,	,,	24.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 377] - -	589
,,	,,	31.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 380] - -	591
,,	April	25.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 381] - -	592
,,	,,	30.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 385] - -	595
,,	May	15.	Meeting of Annual Committee [*Ib.* p. 387] - -	597

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE

CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND.

In the General Convention of the Royal Burrows, holden at the Burgh of Edinburgh upon the fourth day of July one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight years by the Commissioners therein conveened, who compearing gave in their Commissions as follows:—

Edinburgh. 4 July 1738. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH, James Colhoun and William Somervel; Pearth, Robert Robertson; Dundee, Andrew Wardroper; Aberdeen, John Robertson; Stirling, Mr James Erskin; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, William Douglas; Glasgow, John Coulter; Air, James Huntar; Hadingtoun, William Ray; Dysert, George Irving; Kirkaldie, James Barclay; Montrose, George Murison; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Dumfreise, John Ewart; Inverness, Duncan Forbes, Esqr.; Bruntisland, George Boog; Innerkeithing, John Cant; Kinghorn, John Bruce; Brechin, Provost Doig; Irving, James Cunningham; Dumferling, Adam Rolland; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Dumbarton, Mr George Smollet; Ranfrew, John Paterson; Dumbar, Capt. James Fall; Lanerk, John

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1738. Sederunt.

Bannantine; Aberbrothock, John Grant; Elgine, James Stephen; Tain, William Ross; Culross, Major Thomas Cochran; Banf, James Innes; Whithorn, John M'Candlish; Forfar, Andrew Binny; Forres, William Forbes; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; North Berwick, Robert Swintown; Cullen, John Philp; Lauder, John Moffet; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, James Jardin; Sanquhar, Thomas Goldie; New Gallaway, Thomas Gordon; Dornock, Mr John Baillie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Inverary, Mr Archd. Campbell; Wick, Sir Robt. Monro; Kirkwall, James Donaldson, Junr.; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Stranraer, Mr Hugh Murray Kinninmont; Campbeltoun, Mr Alexr. M'Millan; (fifteen burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses during the sitting of this present convention, who, being present and accepting, gave his oath *de fideli*, being formerly qualifyed to his Majesty in the same capacity.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Irving, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Lanerk, Banf, Whithorn, North-Berwick, Cullen, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun, as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented, or to be presented, to this present convention. And the convention having heard the commissions of the committee, they approve of the haill commissions of the said committee. And such of the members and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed, did qualify themselves to his Majesty, King George the Second, by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same, with the assurance, vizt.:—James Colhoun and William Somervell, commissioners for Edinburgh; James Oswald, assessor for Kirkaldie; William M'Intosh, assessor for Inverness; William Ray, commissioner for Hadingtoun; James Cunningham, commissioner for Irving; Andrew Scott, commissioner for Selkirk; James Innes, commissioner for Banf; and Alexr. M'Millan, commissioner for Campbleton.

Eodem die post meridiem.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1738.

Report of the committee on the commissions.

3. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they, having met and considered the commissions from the burghs of Stirling, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Brechin, Dumferling, Ranfrew, Elgin, Culross, Forfar, Fforres, Ruthglen, Lauder, Tain, Annan, Lochmabin, Queensferry, Inverary, and Inverbervie, they were of oppinion that *pro hac vice* the convention should approve of the said commissions, notwithstanding of several informalities therein, but that the convention should declair that in time coming, unless the commissions be more formal and the commissioners and assessors be exactly qualifyed in the terms of the platform, they shall not only be excluded from sitting in the convention, but incurr the penaltys mentioned in the platform. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and declair accordingly.

Commissions approven.

4. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Aberbrothock and Dornock they approve of the said commissions.

Jedburgh excused.

5. The same day the convention excuse the burgh of Jedburgh for not sending up a commissioner to attend this convention, in respect the burgh has at present no magistrats.

Annual missive committed.

6. The same day the convention having heard the present annual missive read in their presence, they remit the consideration thereof to the committee appointed for the commissions, to whom they add the burgh of Stirling.

Trustees report referr'd to a committee.

7. The same day there was presented to the convention a coppy of the report made to his Majesty by the commissioners and trustees for manufactures of their proceedings, ending at Christmas 1737, with ane accott. of the payments made by Allan Whitfoord, Esqr., receiver general, in consequence of their orders for that year, the titles of which being read, the convention remit to the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Glasgow, Air, Montrose, Dumfreise, Inverness, Dumbar, Ranfrew, Lanerk, Elgin, Brechin, St Andrews, Coupar, and Dumferling, to consider the

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1738.

Trustees report referr'd to a committee.

same, and allows all the members of the convention to be present at the committee and to have a voice therein.

Letter from the magistrats of Campvere and a ratification of the staple contract presented.

8. The same day there was presented to the convention a ratification made by the burgomasters and magistrats of the city of Camphere of the staple contract enter'd into betwixt the royal burrows and the magistrats of that town, with a letter to the convention from the saids magistrats, which being read in presence of the convention, they remit to the committee for the missive to draw up ane answer to the said letter and to bring in ane overture anent the keeping of the staple port more exactly in time coming.

George Lindsay qualifyed as conjunct dept. clerk.

9. The same day it having been represented that when George Lindsay, conjunct deput clerk, did as such qualify himself last general convention, it was omitted to be taken down so in the record, therefor the said George Lindsay as conjunct deput clerk did again qualify himself by swearing the oath *de fideli administratione* and the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the said oaths with the assurance to his present Majesty, King George the Second.

Agent's accotts. presented.

10. The same day the agent presented his accompts, which were ordered to lye upon the table.

Proceedings of ye annual committee approven.

11. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve thereof.

60 coppys of letter to be destribut to ye members.

12. The same day the convention appoint their agent to purchas sixty coppys of a letter from a merchant who has left off trade to a member of parliament, at six pence per peice, to be destributed to the particular members.

5 July 1738.

Heads and articles of the missive continued.

13. The which day the committee to whom the present annual missive was remitted reported that they, having met and considered the same, were of oppinion the convention should continue the heads and articles of the next annual missive, vizt.:—the first article anent the platform for the commissioners of burrows, the second anent the pay-

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1738.

Heads and articles of the missive continued.

Missive.

ment of the missive dues, the third anent the stoping of signatures for monopolies, the fourth anent the misapplying of mortifications within burgh, the fifth anent the selling of salt by weight, the sixth anent the buying and selling of herrings by met and not by tale, the seventh anent the residence of burgeses within burgh, the eight anent the abuses and transgressions of the laws and regulations in relation to trade, the ninth anent the right cureing and packing of herrings, the tenth anent the standart of the reel of worsted and linnen yearn, the eleventh anent the retail of lintseed by the Linlithgow wheat firlot straiked, the twelveth anent the right making and measuring of linnen cloath, the thirteenth anent the frauds committed in cureing and packing of salmond for exportation, and the fourteenth anent the sending of commissions from the several burrows to the general assembly. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and appoint the clerks to direct missives accordingly.

Absent burrows to be fined.

14. The same day the committee appointed to consider the present general missive considering that there are several members of the royal burrows absent from this convention, they were of oppinion that the convention should fyne the said absents agreeable to the formula.

Act anent the due observance of the staple.

15. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to bring in the draught of ane act in relation to the due observance of the staple contract gave in the same as follows, vizt. :—That as by the 258 act made in the 15th parliament of King James the Sixth, the importation of goods into the low countrys is limited to the staple port, and that by the staple contract subsisting between the royal burrows and the burgo masters and magistrats of Campvere it is stipulated and agreed to that the above limitation shall remain in force dureing the full term of the forsaid contract, therefor every person concerned should be required to give attention to the forsaid limitation certifying that the agent should be ordered and directed to prosecut every offender in this particular to subject them in payment of the penaltys imposed by the above in part recited act of parliament and the acts of the general convention in that behalf made. Which report being considered by the

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1738.

Act anent the due observance of the staple.

convention, they approve thereof and appoint the same to be ane article of the next annual missive.

Commissions approven.

16. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burgh of Week and Kirkwall, as also a commission to ane assessor for the burgh of Irving, they approve of the same. And James Donaldson, commr. for the said burgh of Kirkwall, qualifyed himself to his Majesty, King George the Second, by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Committee on the agent's accotts.

17. The same day the convention appoint the committee formerly named to consider the report of the report of the commissioners and trustees for manufactures to meet this night at five o'cloak on the said affair.

Burrows deficient in payt. of their missive dues.

18. The same day the agent gave in a list of such burrows as were deficient in payment of their missive dues, which was read in the convention, whereof the tenor follows :—

Horning agt. the above burrows.

. . . . . .

Committee on Elgin's petition.

19. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Elgin craveing a ratification of two few charters granted by them in virtue of ane allowance made by a former general convention, they remit to Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Inverness, Dysert, and Banf to consider the saids few charters and report.

Committee on the agent's accotts.

20. The same day the convention appoint the burgh of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dumfreise, and Dumbar to consider the agent's accompts and the staple port, and report.

Annual committee to correspond with the trustees anent the herrings.

21. The same day the member for St Andrews produced the coppys of two extracts from the registers of the Senat of Hamburg in relation to herrings caught befor midsummer, with the resolution of the trustees for encouraging fisherys and manufactorys made thereupon, which being read in presence of the convention, they remit to the annual committee to be appointed to sit after dissolving of this convention to correspond with the saids trustees, and prepare such remonstrances thereanent as they shall think propper.

Viset for Bruntisland.

22. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Bruntisland, they appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Kinghorn,

Kirkaldie, Innerkeithing, Dysert, and Dumferling to viset the said burgh and harbour thereof, and report the case thereof to the next annual convention, and this to be a head of the missive.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1738. Viset for Bruntisland. Missive.

[23. Two charters granted by Elgin ratify'd & appointed to be recorded.]

6 July 1738.

24. The same day the committee appointed to consider the report from the trustees for improveing fisherys and manufactorys having met and heard the said report read in their presence, they were of oppinion they could not enter into the consideration thereof, the same being approven by his Majesty, but that the trustees deserve the convention's hearty thanks for the great trouble and pains taken by them in the encouraging the manufactures of this kingdom. Which being considered by the convention they approve of the report and appoint the annual committee that shall be impower'd to sitt after dissolving of this convention to take the first opportunity of returning the thanks of the convention to the commissioners and trustees above named for their great pains in encouraging the fisherys and manufactures of this kingdom.

Annual committee to take the first propper opportunity of returning thanks to the trustees for their great care in promoteing ye manufactures.

25. The same day the committee appointed to audite the agent's accompts reported that they having considered the agent's intromissions with the unfree trade since July last, inclusive of two thousand one hundred and thirty pound three shilling one penny and $\frac{7}{12}$ths of a penny Scots money as the ballance due by him on his last accott., ffind the amount to extend to three thousand four hundred and ninety-eight pound eighteen shilling eight pennies $\frac{11}{12}$ths of a penny Scots, and that his payments doe amount to three thousand ffive hundred and ninety-one pound five shilling seven pennies and two-twelveths money forsaid, whereby there is a ballance due to the agent of ninety-two pound six shilling ten pennies $\frac{3}{12}$ths money forsd, for which he has gott credit in his accott. for missive dues which is likeways filled of the date hereof. The instructions are seal'd by the preses and left in the clerk's hands, and of which accompt the tenor follows and the convention approve of.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade approven.

EDINBURGH, 6 July 1738.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade approven.

George Irving, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland, debr.

To ballance due by the compter upon his last accompt of unfree trade, audited in July 1737 -	£2130	3	1	7
To cash received from the following burghs from July 1st 1737 to Do. 1738, vizt.:—				
Weemys for one year's cess and missive dues till July 1st 1737 - - - -	45	0	6	0
Greenock for Do. due at July 1737 -	240	2	8	0
Leven for Do. due at July 1737 -	60	0	8	0
Kilmarnock for Do. due at July 1737 -	60	0	8	0
Dalkeith for Do. due at July 1737 -	120	1	4	0
Down for Do. due at July 1737 -	10	0	1	4
Dunniekier for Do. due at July 1737 -	20	0	2	8
Linktoun for Do. due at July 1737 -	20	0	2	8
Bo'ness for Do. due at July 1737 -	150	1	8	0
Prestonpans for Do. due at July 1737 -	150	1	8	0
Peterhead for Do. due at July 1737 -	60	0	8	0
Eli for Do. due at July 1737 -	30	0	4	0
Eymouth for Do. due at July 1737 -	75	0	10	0
Kilwinning for Do. due at July 1737 -	15	0	2	0
Aloa for Do. due at July 1737 -	75	0	10	0
Portsoy for Do. due at July 1736 -	29	9	6	8
St Ninian's for Do. due at July 1737 -	14	7	6	0
Saltcoats for Do. due at July 1737 -	120	1	4	0
Cockeny for Do. due at July 1736 -	44	4	4	0
Musselburgh for Do. due at July 1737 -	30	0	4	0
	£3498	18	8	11
Ballance due to the agent for which he has taken credit in his accompt of this year's missive -	92	6	10	3
Sum	£3591	5	7	2

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade approven.

Contra Creditor.								
By a year's missive dues of the burghs of barrony and regality from July 1st 1737 to Do. 1738, effeiring to £5, 10s. of the tax roll -	£840	15	7	2				
By payt. to parties for quartering by 39th act in July 1730 - - -	60	0	0	0				
By cash to the receiver general in full of eight moneths' supply for the burghs of barrony and from 25th March 1737 to Do. 1738, £224, 4s. 2d. sterling - - -	2690	0	0	0				
Sum					£3591	5	7	2

Which accott. and report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof.

Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

26. The same day the committee appointed to audite the agent's accompts reported that having considered his accompt of missive dues they fand that he charges himself with fifteen thousand pound Scots as the missive dues from July iajvij & and thirty-seven to July 1738, and with two thousand seven hundred and seventy pound nineteen shilling ten pennies Scots as the prinle. sum, and @ rents contain'd in Mr George Smollet's bond and recept amounting to seventeen thousand seven hundred and seventy pound nineteen shillings and ten pennies Scots, and that his discharge inclusive of three hundred and thirty-one pound eighteen shilling Scots as the ballance of his last accott. of missive dues resting to him at July 1737. And of the forsaid sum of £2770, 19s. 10d. contain'd in Mr George Smollet's bond yet outstanding, and of £92, 6s. 10$\frac{3}{12}$d. money forsd as the ballance due to him on this year's accott. of unfree trade taken credit for in this accott. amounts to sixteen

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738. Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

thousand two hundred and eighty-eight pound fifteen shilling $3\frac{3}{12}$ths of a penny Scots, soe that there is a ballance due by the agent on this accott. amounting to one thousand four hundred and eighty-two pounds four shilling six pennies and nine-twelveths of a penny Scots money, to remain in his hands to answer the difference of the cess charged on him in the tax roll more than what is chargable on the burghs of barrony and regality, and with which ballance the agent in his next accompts is to charge himself accordingly, and in regaurd that the proces is still in dependance for which the article in this accompt to dean of gild Gartshore was given he could not now accott. for the same, therefor he ought to be called to ane accompt for the same the next convention. The instructions of this accott. being sealed up by the preses are left in the clerk's hands. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and appoint the agent to charge himself accordingly, and of which accompt the tenor follows:—

George Irving, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland.

Debr.						
To one year's missive dues, from the first day of July 1737 to Do. 1738 - - -				£15,000	0	0
To the prinle. sum in Mr George Smollet's bond - -	£1,951	19	8			
$8\frac{1}{2}$ years' intrest yrof till May 25th 1737 - - -	829	12	0			
	£2,781	11	8			
1 year's intrest till May 1738 -	97	12	0			
To ditto's recept granted to the town of St Ninians, dated Febry. 9th 1722, not accompted for - -	74	12	2			
	£2,953	15	10			

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

Whereof payed in part of the intrest of Do. bond at July 1732 and accompted for that year - - -	182 16 0	
		2,770 19 10
		£17,770 19 10

Ads.	Contra.	Crer.
30	By ballance due to the compter on this accott. at July 1737 - - -	£331 18 0
32	To the city of Edinburgh - -	4000 0 0
33	By allowance given to the conservator for defraying his expence at Campvere -	1440 0 0
Do.	To Do. for making up the deficiency allowed for his depts. sallary - -	199 11 3
37	To the burgh of Kinghorn toward repairing the harbours - - - -	240 0 0
41	To James Dumbar for his book intituld the industrious husbandman - -	60 0 0
44	To the relict of James Moncurr, late burrow officer of supply - - -	60 0 0
46	By the prinle. clerk's sallary - -	600 0 0
	To the agent of sallary - - -	600 0 0
	To his servant of sallary - -	120 0 0
	To the lord advocat as assessor of sallary	333 6 8
	To his servant of sallary - -	60 0 0
	To the conservator of sallary - -	600 0 0
	To David Flint, secretary to the trustees, for his own and clerk's sallary - -	960 0 0

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738. Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

To Mrs Blackwood for the rent of the trustees' office till Whit. 1738 - -	240	0	0
To Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent at London, of sallary - - - -	300	0	0
To Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, for his clerks' sallary - - -	240	0	0
To James Nasmyth, dept. clerk, of sallary - - - -	240	0	0
To Archd. Blair of sallary - -	240	0	0
To Do. of gratuity for his writings to the annual committee - - -	120	0	0
To the burrow officer of sallary - -	240	0	0
To Do. of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble - - - -	48	0	0
To the usher of exchequer - -	60	0	0
To the clerk of the burrow aeque -	60	0	0
To the keeper of the advocats' bar -	29	0	0
To the macers of exchequer - -	26	13	4
To the macers of session - - -	26	13	4
To the presenter of signatures and his servant - - - -	71	12	0
To the gardner of Herriot's hospital for fflowers - - - -	12	0	0
To the keeper of the burrow roume -	15	0	0
To the two doorkeepers of excheqr. -	17	12	0
To Mr John Garshore, d. guild of Glasgow, for the expence of prosecutions -	600	0	0
To this year's missive and other writings -	55	10	0
To ane accott. of depursements by the agent in the burrows' affairs - -	127	4	0
To Do. of incidents - - -	120	0	0
To the expence of four suit of linnings to the Lord President - - -	288	0	0

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

By the ballance due to the compter on this year's accott. of unfree trade - -	92	6	10 $\frac{3}{12}$
Sum	£12,874	1	5 $\frac{3}{12}$
By ane year's intrest of the above sum -	643	14	0
By the sum in Mr George Smollet's bond yet resting - - - - -	2,770	19	10
Ballance due by the agent -	1,482	4	6 $\frac{9}{12}$
	£17,770	19	10

Agent to pay to the conservater £41, 15s. 3d. sterl.

27. The same day the committee reported that having perused and examined the accotts. of the conservator's dues collected at Camphere, from the first of June 1737 to the first of June 1738, amounting to thirty-three pounds four shillings and nine pence sterl., did ffind that it falls short in the sum of sixteen pounds fifteen shillings and three pence money forsaid to make up the sum of fifty pounds sterling intended to be given to the conservator to defray the expence of his deputy at Campvere for last year. And furder did observe the conservator has laid out in his expence to Campvere twenty-five pound sterl. money more than what has been hitherto given him, and therefor are of oppinion that the agent should be ordered to pay to the conservator over and above his sallary the sum of fourty-one pounds fifteen shillings and three pence money forsaid in satisfaction of both the said sixteen pounds fifteen shillings and three pence and the said twenty-five pound sterl. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve of the same and appoint their agent to pay to the conservater the forsaid sum of fourty-one pounds fifteen shillings and three pence sterl. over and above his sallary.

Sanquhar commn. approven.

28. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Sanquhar, they approve of the same.

Kirkudbright and Wigtoun excused.

29. The same day the convention accepts of the excuses made for

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Kirkudbright and Wigtoun excused.

the burghs of Kirkudbright and Wigtoun's being absent from this present convention.

Committee to wait on the lord president of the session.

30. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, St Andrews, Stirling, and Glasgow as a committee of their number to wait on the lord president of the session and make their complements to him upon his promotion as lord president, and to return his lordship hearty thanks in name of the convention for the great dilligence and concern shown by his lordship in promoteing the intrests of the manufactures of this part of the kingdom.

Remit to ye annual committee anent ye linnen bill.

31. The same day it being represented to the convention that some gentlemen at London had advanced a considerable sum for promoting the intrest of the linnen manufactory before the parliament, therefor the convention doe remit to the annual committee to consider the depursements made by them with full power to them to appoint the agent to pay to the said gentlemen a sum not exceeding one hundred pound sterling on that accott.

Annual committee to promote a bill in parliat. for ye encouraging the linnen manufacture.

32. The same day the convention recommend to their annual committee to correspond with the members of parliament in relation to any laws that may be thought necessary for promoteing and encouraging the linnen manufacture in this part of the kingdom, with power to the said committee to petition the parliament as they shall think propper.

[33. Act of council for Kirkaldie approven.]

Petition for Thos. Mathie remitted to ye annual committee.

34. The same day the convention having heard a petition from Thomas Mathie, merchant in Cockeny, complaining of several hardships he lyes under in relation to the agreement for the communication of trade enter'd into by him with the royal burrows at the port of Cockeny. They remit the consideration thereof to the annual committee, and recommend to them to call the other traders at the said port before them, and endeavour to adjust the particular proportions which ought to be pay'd by the several traders there, and apply the same for the releiff of his engagment with the royal burrows for the communication of trade.

and in the mean time to stop quartering upon the said Thomas Mathie, and this to be considered at the first meeting of the committee.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Petition for Thos. Mathie remitted to ye annual committee.

35. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Week complaining of a breach of priviledge upon them by Mr Francis Sinclair, ane honorary burges there, they remit the consideration thereof to the annual committee, with power to them to appoint their agent to concurr with the said burgh of Week in defence of their priviledges and expend a sum not exceeding ten pounds sterling therein if they shall think propper.

Annual committee to concurr with Week agt. Mr Ffrancis Sinclair.

36. The same day the convention having heard a petition for Walter and Margaret Cheishes, complaining of ane arrear of missive dues resting to Willm. Brown, sometime agent to the royal burrows, they remit to their annual committee to consider the same, and report to the next annual convention.

Petition for Margt. Cheisley remit to the annl. committee.

37. The same day the commissioner for Dumferling having desired the convention's directions in relation to the prizes for table linnen to be contended for at Edinbr., Dumferling, and Coupar, the convention recommend to the magistrats of the said burghs to follow the same rules as are laid down by the trustees for encouraging fisherys and manufactures for prizes exhibited by them, and appoint letters to be direct to the magistrats of the said burrows thereanent.

Directions anent Mr Onslow's prize money.

Eodem die post meridiem.

38. The same day the preses reported that according to appointment of the convention the committee had waited on the lord president in the session and made the convention's compliments to him upon his promotion as lord president, and gave his lordship the convention's hearty thanks for his great care and dilligence in promoteing the ffisheries and manufactures of this kingdom.

Committee's report anent the lord president.

39. The same day the convention having heard a commission for the burgh of New Gallaway, they approve thereof.

Commission approven.

40. The same day the convention appoints their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following from the first day of July one thousand

Agent appointed to pay the yearly sallarys and gratuities.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Agent appointed to pay the yearly sallarys and gratuities.

seven hundred and thirty-eight to the first day of July one thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine years. To the prinle. clerk ffifty pounds sterling of sallary; to the agent fifty pound sterling of sallary; to his servant ten pounds sterling of sallary; to the lord advocat as assessor ffive hundred merks of sallary; to his servant sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archd. M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to the relict of William Blackwood, merchant, twenty pounds sterling for the rent of the trustees' office; to Mr William Hamilton, agent at London, twenty-five pounds sterling of sallary; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to James Nasmyth, dept. clerk, twenty pounds sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair twenty pounds sterling of sallary, and ten pounds sterling of gratuity on accott. of his writings to the annual committee; to the burrow officer twenty pounds sterling of sallary, and four pound sterling of gratuity on accott. of his extraordinary trouble; to the usher of exchequer five pounds sterling; to the clerk of the burrow aeque five pound sterling; to the keeper of the advocats' bar twenty-nine pounds Scots; to the macers of exchequer ffourty merks; to the macers of session fourty merks; to the presenter of signatures and his servant seventy-one pound twelve shilling Scots; to the gardner of Herriot's hospital twelve pound Scots for flowers; to the keeper of the burrow roume fifteen pound Scots; to the two doorkeepers of exchequer seventeen pound twelve shilling Scots equally betwixt them.

Annual committee appointed with their usual power.

41. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Irving, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Culross, Banf, Forress, Cullen, Annan, Lochmabin, Inverarie, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun, as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Annual committee appointed with their usual power.

the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows and between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing touching unfree traders and the communication of trade. Declairing that five (Edinburgh being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter except in such matters as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum. And furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their rescive. representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay. But the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money, except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July 1734.

Absent burghs fyned.

42. The same day the convention fyne and unlaw the burghs following each in the sum of one hundred pounds Scots money to be pay'd to the agent for not sending up commissioners to this present convention, vizt.: — the burghs of Anstruther Easter, Pittenweem, Anstruther Wester, Craill, Rothesay, Nairn, Kilrenny, Dingwall, Fortrose, Kintore, and Inverury, and ordains letters of horning to be direct agtt. them for payment of the said fines.

Convention dissolved.

43. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention, and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1738.

Follows ane act of the town council of the burgh of Kirkaldie appointed to be recorded by the 33d act of the last convention.

. . . . . .

Follows one of the few charters granted by the town of Elgine to Robert Grant, merchant in Elgine, appointed to be recorded by the 23d act of the last general convention.

. . . . . .

Follows the charter by the magistrats of Elgin to James Warden, merchant in Elgin, appointed to be recorded by the foregoing act.

. . . . . .

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

11 July 1738.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1738. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Colhoun, D. Gild; St Andrews, Patrick Lindesay; Air, James Huntar; Dysert, George Irving; Inverness, Mr M'Intosh, assr.; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar, assr.; Campbeltoun, Alexr. M'Millan.

Preses chosen.

The which day the committee elect Archibald M'Aulay, Esq., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

Thos. Mathie's bill considered.

The same day the committee having heard the several remits of the last general convention to them, and having particularly considered the petition of Thomas Mathie, merchant in Cockeny, complaining of several persons who carryed on trade at that town and port, who pay no share of the cess imposed upon that place, and the committee having heard Mr Willm. Adam, archetect, Mr Willm. Hogg, mercht., and several others of the persons complained upon, and also the petitioner, anent the matters set furth in the bill, they delay the furder consideration thereof till next meeting.

Complt. the burgh of Week agt Mr Ffrancis Sinclair.

The same day the committee having considered a memorial for the burgh of Week, complaining that Mr Francis Sinclair, brother to the

Earle of Caithness, had incroacht upon the rights and priviledges of the free burgeses of the said burgh, wt. the remitt of the convention thereanent, they appoint their agent to write to the said Mr Francis Sinclair to put in his answers to the said complaint on or before the eleventh day of August next, and for that end to serve him wt. a copy of the memorial wt. certification if he faill give in answers agtt. that time the committee will grant the burgh of Week the aid of the burrows as directed by the thirty-fifth act of the last convention.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1738. Complt. the burgh of Week agt. Mr Ffrancis Sinclair.

28 July 1738.

Edinburgh, James Colhoun; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dysert, George Irving; Cullen, John Philp; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Sederunt.

The same day the committee having taken into consideration ane letter from the magistrats, burgo master, and councillors of the town of Campvere with their act of ratification of the staple contract therein inclosed, and they having also considered the draught of ane answer to the said letter, they approve thereof, and appoint the same to be sign'd by their preses in their name, whereof the tenor follows:—

Letter to the magistrats of Campvere approven.

Rt. Honble.—The general convention of the royal burrows of Scotland assembled here on the 4th of July instant, did receive and had under their consideration your honrs. letter bearing date the 31st day of Augt. 1737, covering your act of ratification of the staple contract, and informing them of the exchange in form of the mutual acts of ratification agreeable to the seventeenth article of that contract.

It was with the utmost pleasure that the convention did observe the assurance given on your part strictly to observe that contract without doing any thing directly or indirectly contrary to it.

The convention being equally sollicitous with yow that the observance thereof may be strictly had on their part, did upon the 5th instant make a fresh rule and order, a coppy whereof is hereunto annext, and which they are perswaded will be attended with the desired effect. And wee were commanded in their name to assure yow, that nothing

EDINBURGH. 28 July 1738. Letter to the magistrats of Campvere approven.

further on their part shall be wanting to make the staple regain its former luster as well for the advantage of the inhabitants of your city as of the Scots nation. And wee likeways assure yow that the lord conservator's conduct in these matters does verry much contribute to the promoting of the benefit of the staple, soe as that the real intent thereof may be obtain'd by both the contracting parties. Recommending yow and your state to the divine protection, wee remain,—Rt. honble., your lops. good freinds, the annual committee of the convention of royal burrows.

Edr., 28th July 1738, sign'd in presence & by appointmt. of the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland.

Act anent Mr Onslow's prizes.

The same day the committee having considered the remit of the last convention relative to Mr Onslow's prizes to be contended for at the burghs of Edinburgh, Coupar, and Dumfermling, they appoint their preses to write to the magistrats of the said burghs that they observe the same rules anent these prizes as are laid down by the trustees for encouraging fisherys and manufactures for the prizes exhibited by them agreeable to the 37th act of the last convention.

23 August 1738.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Colhoun, preses, and William Somervel; Montrose, John Coutts; Coupar, Mr James Leslie; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Preses chosen.

The which day the committee elect James Colhoun, one of the commissioners for the burgh of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Complaint Archd. Howie agtt. the magistrats of Dumferling.

The same day there was presented by Archibald Howie, late deacon of the weavers of Edinburgh, a petition and complaint setting furth that albeit he had presented two peices of diaper table cloaths and napkins conform at the burgh of Dumfermling in order to contend for the prizes at that burgh upon the seventeenth day of August instant, yet that

the magistrats of the said burgh did refuse to allow his table linnen to contend upon some frivolous pretences, and had actually preferr'd Alexander and David Harts, weavers in Dumferling, to the prizes after the petitioner's table diaper was set aside, and therefor craved that the committee would allow his said table diaper yet to stand a compare wt. the peices exhibited by the said Alexr. and David Harts, and if his said cloath was found by skilfull judges to be preferable to theirs to find that he had right to the prizes, and in the meantime to give directions to the agent to stop the payment of the said prize money untill it be so determined as the petition subscrived by him bears. Which being considered by the committee they appoint the magistrats of Dumfermling and the contending partys to be served with a coppy thereof that they may give in their answers on or before the first day of September next, and in the meantime they stop payment of the premium or prize money.

EDINBURGH. 23 August 1738.

Complaint Archd. Howie agtt. the magistrats of Dumferling.

The same day the committee having considered the memorial given in by the burgh of Wick with the answers this day given in by Mr Francis Sinclair thereto, they appoint their agent to concurr with the magistrats of Wick and expend a sum thereon not exceeding ten pounds sterling in the terms of the act of convention, in case Mr Ffrancis Sinclair shall not betwixt and this day six weeks by a write under his hand submitt all differences betwixt him and the said magistrats to the determination of the committee.

Act appointing the agent to concurr wt. Wick agt. Mr Ffrancis Sinclair.

1 September 1738.

Archd. M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost, preses; Edinburgh, James Colhoun and William Somervell; St Andrews, Patrick Lindesay; Fforres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee having resumed the consideration of the complaint at the instance of Archibald Howie, late deacon of the weavers of Edinburgh, and the answers given in thereto by David & Alexander Harts, weavers in Dumferling, and having heard partys thereanent, they remit to James Donaldson, merchant & weaver in

Remit to weavers to inspect Archd. Howie's table linnen.

EDINBURGH. 1 September 1738.

Remit to weavers to inspect Archd. Howie's table linnen.

Edinburgh, and to Robert Gourley, weaver in Leith, to inspect the table cloaths and napkins offered by the said Archibald Howie to contend for the prizes at Dumfermling, and to report their oppinion upon oath if the said peices are truely diaper, or if they are damask, and that how soon they can with their conveniency.

19 September 1738.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost; Edinburgh, James Colhoun, and William Somervel; Cullen, John Philp; Dysert, George Irving; Fforres, Mr Hugh Forbes.

Act appointing the Dumferling prizes to be contended for of new, at Edr. upon ye 1st Thursday of Octor. 1738.

The which day Archibald Howie, late deacon of the weavers of Edinburgh, exhibited & produced the reports of James Donaldson and Robert Gourley, who were appointed to inspect the table-linnen belonging to him offered to have contended for the prizes at Dumferling, whereof the tenor follows:—Edinbr., 8th September 1738. I, the above James Donaldson, having conform to the above remit inspected the table linnen abovementioned belonging to deacon Howie, am of oppinion that the cloath is of a diaper or Dornock figure, improven by being wrought through a back harnish, but that the same figure can be wrought in leaves without a back harnish, and this I declair to be my true oppinion as I shall answer to God. *Sic subscribitur*, James Donaldson, Edinbr., 8th September 1738. *Jurat coram me sic subscribitur*, Thos. Allan, baillie.

I, Robert Gourley, late deacon of the weavers of Leith, having conform to the foregoing remit inspected the table linnen mentioned in the foregoing petition belonging to deacon Archibald Howie, am of oppinion that the said table linnen is truely diaper, of a diaper figure tho' wrought throw a back harnish, which is the best manner of working it. That I am at present working diaper in the same manner and have been in use to practise that way of working diaper these twenty years past, and that all those who imployed me called it diaper and not damask, and I never heard it objected against in all my practise, that

EDINBURGH. 19 September 1738.

Act appointing the Dumferling prizes to be contended for of new, at Edr. upon ye 1st Thursday of Octor. 1738.

tho' I can also work it in leaves of the same figure, yet I rather choise to doe it with the back harnish, both for my own conveniency and for the advantage of the work, and this I declare to be my true oppinion as I shall answer to God. *Sic subscribitur*, Robt. Gurlay, Edinburgh, 8th Septer. 1738. *Jurat coram me sic subscribitur*, Thos. Allan, baillie.

Which reports being considered by the committee, they find it proven by the testimonys of the said skilfull weavers upon oath that the petitioner, Archibald Howie, his table linnen is truely diaper and not damask as was represented by the contending partys at Dumferling. And therefor they have reversed and hereby reverse the judgment and sentence of the saids magistrats of Dumfermling in setting aside the saids peices and not allowing them to contend for the two prizes at the sd. burgh, and find that the petitioner is yet intituled therewith to contend for the prizes aforsaid, and for that effect have appointed and hereby appoint the saids David and Alexander Harts, weavers in Dumfermling, proprietors of the two peices of diaper said to be the best of these peices exhibited on the seventeenth of August last, and all others who incline yet to contend for the said prizes, to bring or send the said peices of diaper belonging to them to the burrow roume at Edinburgh upon the first Thursday of October next betwixt the hours of ten & eleven in the forenoon, in order to stand a compare with the peices of diaper belonging to the said Archibald Howie, before and in presence of baillie William Robertson, Mr Alexr. Sharp, Mr John Forrest, and Allan Begg, merchants in Edinburgh, or any three of them, whom the committee have authorized and hereby authorize to take tryal of the several peices of diaper which shall be exhibited, and to determine which of them are best woven and best whitened, soe as to be entitled to the aforsaid prizes, and appoint thir presents to be intimat by a missive from the clerk of the burrows to the magistrats of the burgh of Dumferling and to the saids David and Alexander Harts, weavers there, to the end they may not pretend ignorance, with certification if they faill to exhibit their cloath at the day and place hereby appointed for contending, the

EDINBURGH. 19 September 1738.

committee will proceed to adjudge the aforsaid prizes to belong to such persons who shall be found to have the best diaper then exhibited.

2 November 1738.

Sederunt.

James Colhoun, Esqr., lord provost of Edr.; Edinburgh, William Somervell; Montrose, Baillie John Coutts; Dysert, George Irving; Cullen, John Philp; Air, Andrew Huntar.

Preses chosen.

The which day the committee elect James Colhoun, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

Act appointing the agent to pay to Archd. Howie & David Hart £7, 8s. 2d. each of prize money.

The same day there was presented to the committee the report of the judges appointed to determine upon the peices of best diaper presented at the burrow roume upon the fifth of October last to contend for Mr Onslow's prizes, bearing that they had met at the burrow roume upon the said day, and after being sworn *de fideli* they did inspect four table cloaths of diaper containing twelve yeards and two and a half yeards broad, with two dozen of napkins of the same figure, seven-eights of a yeard broad, presented by deacon Archibald Howie, weaver in Edinbr., to contend for the prizes abovemend. And no other peices being exhibited to them by David or Alexr. Harts, weavers in Dumfermling, or by any other person whatsomever, they certifyed that the said table cloath and napkins belonging to the said Archibald Howie were sufficiently well wrought and well bleecht cloath, as their report subscrived by them upon the sd. fifth day of October last bears. Which report being considered by the committee they adjudge, decern, and declair that the first prize of seven pounds eight shillings and two pence sterling appointed for the peice of best diaper table cloath of two and a half yeards broad and twelve yeards long, and two dozen of napkins seven-eights of a yeard broad, pertains and belongs to Archibald Howie, weaver in Edinbr., as having been the only peice presented to the judges according to the breadths & length abovementioned. But find that he having produced no peices of diaper table cloath two yeards broad and napkins three-fourths of a yeard broad appointed for the

second prize at Dumfermling, the said prize doth appertain and belong to David Hart, weaver in Dumfermling, who presented a peice of diaper table cloaths and napkins of these breadths and lengths, and was found to be intitled to the said second prize by the determination of the judges at Dumfermling, and therefor they appoint their agent to pay over the said prize money to the saids Archibald Howie and David Hart, being seven pounds eight shillings and two pence sterling to each.

EDINBURGH. 2 November 1738.

Act appointing the agent to pay to Archd. Howie & David Hart £7, 8s. 2d. each of prize money.

1 December 1738.

James Colhoun, Esqr., lord provt., preses; Edinbr. William Somervell; Dysert, George Irving; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; St Andrews, Patrick Lindsay; Dumbar, Capt. James Fall; Cullen, John Philp; Campbeltoun, Alexr. M'Millan.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee prorogat the term for Mr Ffrancis Sinclair's submitting the differences betwixt him & the burgh of Wick till this day three weeks, and appoint their agent to acquaint him thereof by a missive.

Act prorogating ye time for Mr Ffrancis Sinclair's submiting his differences wt. Wick.

The same day the agent presented a letter which he had received from Mr Thomas Whyte, dated at London the 21st November 1738, acquainting him that he, the said Mr Thomas, had drawn on him for one hundred and twelve pounds six pence sterling, payable to Capt. James Fall on accott. of the burrows' proportion of the expence of the application made last session of parliament for promoteing the linnen bill. Which being read the committee appoint the commissioner for Dumbar to write to the said Mr Thomas Whyte to send down ane abstract of the whole expence laid out on that affair that the committee may have the same under their consideration.

Act anent the linnen bill.

6 December 1738.

Edinbr., James Colhoun, Esqr., preses; Dysert, George Irving; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Cullen, John Philp; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Sederunt.

Act authorizeing Smart Tennent to be ffactor at Campvere.

The which day there was presented to the committee a petition

EDINBURGH. 6 December 1738.

Act authorizeing Smart Tennent to be ffactor at Campvere.

for Smart Tenment, merchant in Musselburgh, craveing to be admitted a factor at the staple port of Campvere, with power to him to exerce the same either by himself alone or in conjunction with Mr James Turine, factor, presently resideing at the said port, if they shall think propper. Which being considered by the committee and they being sufficiently informed of, and fully satisfyed with, the fitnes and sufficiency of the said Smart Tenment for dischargeing the said office, and Capt. James Fall, merchant in Dumbar, Archibald Tod of Blackhill, writer in Edinbr., and Robert Tennent, merchant there, being offered as cautioners for the said Smart Tennent, his dutyfull behaviour in the said office, therefor the committee by virtue of the powers granted to them by the general convention of the royal burrows, doe approve of the said cautioners and have given and granted, and by thir presents give and grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said Smart Tennent to be a factor at the staple port of Campvere upon the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt.: —That the said office shall endure dureing the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said Smart Tennent shall behave himself honestly and dutifully in his said office, and shall appear before the conservator or his deput and give his oath *de fideli administratione*, and shall make just and thankfull compt reckoning and payment of whatsoever goods, gear, and sums of money he shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor, or that he shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows, and that he shall obey all & whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general or particular conventions, and that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with, and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be, when ever he shall happen to be required for that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to

intromit with or sell belonging to merchants his constituents, and that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port by taking them into copartnery with himself without the consent of the royal burrows, and that he shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows dischargeing the same, and lastly in case any of his cautioners abovenamed shall either die or become insufficient that he shall renew his caution whenever he shall be required thereto.

EDINBURGH. 6 December 1738.

Act authorizeing Smart Tennent to be ffactor at Campvere.

20 December 1738.

Edinbr., James Colhoun, Esqr., lord provost, preses; St Andrews, Patrick Lindesay; Hadingtoun, William Ray; Dysert, George Irving; Montrose, John Coutts; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Sederunt.

The which day there was presented to the committee ane accompt of the whole expence laid out by Mr Thomas Whyte and other gentlemen at London in promoteing the bill brought in last session of parliament, for takeing off the dreuvback on ffforreign linnen exported to the British plantations amounting to four hundred fourty-nine pounds four shillings sterling, with a letter from the said Mr Thomas Whyte of the twelveth instant demanding payment of one hundred and twelve pound six shillings sterl., as the burrows fourth part of the said expence. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their agent to pay to the said Mr Thomas Whyte or his order the sum of one hundred pound sterling, authorized to be payed on that accott. by the 31st act of the last convention.

Act appointing the agent to pay 100 lit. sterl. for the linnen bill.

19 June 1739.

Edinburgh, James Colhoun, lord provt., preses; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dysert, George Irving; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Selkirk, Mr Andrew Pringle; Cullen, John Philp; Inverary, Mr Ronald Dunbar.

Sederunt.

The which day there was presented to the annual committee a petition for Mr Andrew Burnet, merchant in Campvere, craveing to be

Mr Andrew Burnet admitted a staple factor.

EDINBURGH. 19 June 1739. Mr Andrew Burnet admitted a staple factor.

admitted a factor at the staple port of Campvere. Which being considered by the committee and they being sufficiently informed of and satisfyed with the fitness and sufficiency of the said Mr Andrew Burnet for discharging the said office, and Mr John Burnet of Elrick, merchant in Aberdeen, and Mr James Thomson of Port Lethem, residenter in Aberdeen, being offered as cautioners for the said Mr Andrew Burnet, his dutifull behaviour in the said office, therefor the committee doe approve of the said cautioners, and by virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention have given and granted and by thir presents give and grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said Mr Andrew Burnet to be a factor at the staple port of Campvere, upon the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt.:— That the said office shall endure during the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said Mr Andrew Burnet shall behave himself honestly and dutifully in the said office, and shall appear before the conservator or his deput and give his oath *de fideli administratione*, and shall make just and thankfull compt reckoning and payment of whatsomever goods, gear, and sums of money he shall happen to intromit with or be intrusted with pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor, or that he shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows, and that he shall obey all and whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general or particular conventions, and that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be, whenever he shall happen to be required for that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to intromitt with or sell belonging to merchants his constituents, and that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port by

EDINBURGH. 19 June 1739. Mr Andrew Burnet admitted a staple factor.

taking them into copartnery with himself without the consent of the royal burrows, and that he shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows dischargeing the same, and lastly in case any of his cautioners abovenamed shall either dye or become insufficient, that he shall renew his caution when he shall be required thereto.

David Gregory admitted a staple factor.

The same day there was a petition given in by David Gregory, son of George Gregory, late staple factor in Campveer, craving to be admitted a factor at the said staple port. Which being considered by the committee and they being sufficiently informed of and satisfyed with the fitnes and sufficiency of the said David Gregory for dischargeing the said office, and Captain Neil M'Leod, deputy governour of Blackness Castle, Mr James Gregory, professor of mathematicks in the Colledge of Edinburgh, and Mr James Stewart, merchant and late baillie of Edinburgh, being offered as cautioners for the said David Gregory, his dutifull behaviour in the said office, therefor the committee doe approve of the said cautioners, and by virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention have given and granted and by thir presents give and grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said David Gregory to be a factor at the staple port of Campveer upon the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt.:—That the said office shall endure dureing the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said David Gregory shall behave himself honestly and dutifully in the said office, and shall appear before the conservator or his deput and give his oath *de fideli administratione*, and shall make just and thankfull compt reckoning and payment of whatsomever goods, gear, and sumes of money he shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor, or that he shall happen to intromit with, at command and direction of the royal burrows, and that he shall obey all and whatsomever acts & statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their

EDINBURGH. 19 June 1739. David Gregory admitted a staple factor.

general or particular conventions, and that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with, and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be, whenever he shall happen to be required for that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to intromit with or sell belonging to merchants his constituents, and that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port by taking them into copartnary with himself without the consent of the royal burrows, and that he shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows discharging the same, and lastly in case any of his cautioners abovenamed shall either dye or become insufficient, that he shall renew his caution when he shall be required thereto.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

3 July 1739.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1739. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Haliburton & Wm. Mitchel; Pearth, James Cree; Dundee, John Donaldson; Aberdeen, Willm. Chalmers; Stirling, Mr James Erskin; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, Willm. Douglas; Glasgow, Andrew Ayton; Air, Thomas Garvin; Hadington, William Ray; Dysert, David Reddie; Kirkaldie, Robert Hay; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, Andrew Corsbie; Inverness, Duncan Forbes; Bruntisland, Thomas Adam; Innerkeithing, John Cant; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, David Doig; Irving, James Cunningham; Jedburgh, Lord Robert Ker; Kirkudbright, William Gordon; Wigtoun, Alexr., Lord Garlies; Pittenweem, Andrew Fouler; Dumferling, Adam Rolland; Anstruther Wester, Robert Lyle; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Dumbarton, Mr James

Smollet; Ranfrew, John Paterson; Dumbar, Charles Fall: Lanerk, John Russell; Elgin, William Forbes; Peebles, John Ramadge; Craill, John Lumsdean; Tain, Robert Ross; Culross, Major Thomas Cochran; Banf, William Duff; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forfar, Andrew Huntar; Rothesay, Robert Wallace; Forres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; North berwick, Robert Swintoun; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, John Moffat; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Annan, John Johnstoun; Lochmabin, James Jardin; Sanquhar, Mr Patrick Boyle; Dingwall, Sr. Robt. Monro; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Fortrose, Duncan Urquhart; Kintoir, Mr Robert Bruce; Inverurie, George Scott; Kirkwall, Nicol Spence; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Stranraer, Mr Hugh Murray Kinninmont; Campbeltoun, Alexr. M'Millan; (seven burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1739. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect James Colhoun, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this present convention, who being present and accepting gave his oath *de fideli*, and qualifyed himself to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Dunbarton, Dunbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Peebles, Cullen, Forress, and Fortrose as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this present convention, and the convention having heard the commissions of the committee, they approve of the haill commissions of the committee and such of the members and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—George Haliburton and William Mitchel, commissioners for Edinbr.; David Baird, assessor for Wigtoun; Alexr. Robertson for

Committee to revise the commissions.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1739.

Committee to revise the commissions.

Aberdeen; William Gordon, assessor for Kirkudbright; James Robertson, assessor for Glasgow; and James Philp, commissioner for Cullen.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

3. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they having heard the commissions from the burghs of Irving, Bruntisland, Brechin, Ranfrey, Selkirk, Anstruther Wester, Pittenweem, Jedburgh, Dunferling, Craill, Tain, Culross, Banf, North Berwick, Whithorn, Forfar, Rothesay, Ruthglen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, Dingwall, Queensferry, Kintoir, Inverbervie, Inverurie, Kirkwall, Stranraer, Campbeltoun, they were of oppinion the convention should approve of the same. Which report being read in convention, they approve of the said commissions accordingly, and such of the commissioners and assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second, by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Robert Smyth, assessor for Edinbr.; John Ainsley, assessor for Jedburgh; Nicol Spence, commissioner for Linlithgow; Robert Wallace for Rothesay; Samuel Charters, assessor for Bruntisland; Andrew Huntar for Forfar; and Robert Lyle for Anstruther, for Anstruther Wester; and Hugh Hathorn for Whithorn.

Commissions approven.

4. The same day the convention having heard the commissions for the burghs of Stirling, Kinghorn, and Anstruther Easter, they approve of the same, and Andrew Johnstoun, commissioner for Anstruther Easter qualifyed himself to his Majesty King George by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Committee to consider the missive.

5. The same day the convention having heard the general missive read in their presence, they remit to the committee for the commissions, to whom they add the burghs of Stirling, Irving, Jedburgh, Ranfrew, Selkirk, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun, to consider the same and report.

Committee to consider ye quartering.

6. The same day it being represented to the convention that some

of the prinle. burrows are threatned with quartering on account of others of the royal burrows who are deficient in payment of their cess, they remit the consideration thereof to the committee on the missive.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1739.

Committee to consider ye quartering.

7. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence they approve thereof.

Proceedings of ye annl. committee approven.

8. The same day the convention appoint the prizes for the table linnen given by Mr Onslow to be contended for, at the times and in the manner formerly directed.

Prizes to be contended for as formerly.

9. The same day the conservator presented a letter from the magistrats of Campvere to the convention which was read & left in the clerk's hands, and which advises of the exchange of the last staple contract, and assureing that they will strictly perform it.

Letter from Campvere.

4 July 1739.

The same day the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive reported that they having met and considered the same, they were of oppinion that the convention should continue the first fourteen articles and sixteenth article of the present annual missive as heads and articles of the next general missive, and having also considered the fifteenth article of the said missive anent the viset appointed for the burgh of Bruntisland, with a report from the visitors anent the condition of the said burgh, they were of oppinion that the case & condition of the peer of the said burgh deserves the consideration of the convention, and that they ought to have some assistance toward the reparation of the said peer, and having also considered the seventeenth article of the missive anent the tax roll of the royal burrows, they were of oppinion that the convention should continue the said tax roll as it now stands for two years untill July iajvij & and fourty-one, and that where as there is laid upon the agent five pound ten shilling and only upon the burghs of barrony and regality who are in use of paying for the communication of trade two pound seven shilling, the

Articles of the missive continued.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1729.

Articles of the missive continued.

agent should be ordered to call for the debt owing to the burrows by Mr George Smollet, advocat, their late agent, and if necessary to doe dilligence therefor, and to recover the sum of fifty pounds sterling contain'd in dean of gild Garshore's bond and apply the same with what ballance shall be resting by the agent on this year's accott. of missive dues to answer the difference between the said five pound ten shilling and two pound seven shilling, and in so far as the same shall fall short that the same shall be made up to the agent by the royal burrows. Which report having been considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoints the said articles to continue as heads of the next annual missive, and continue the tax roll of the royal burrows as it now stands for two years untill July iajvij & and fourty-one years, and appoint the agent to doe dilligence by letters of horning or otherways for recovering the sums mentioned in the said report.

The genl. receiver to quarter on the burghs of Nairn and Week.

11. The same day the committee reported that they having considered the notes of deficiency of cess given in by the receiver general as due by the burghs of Nairn and Week, they were of oppinion that the said general receiver should be desired to quarter upon the said burghs for the said deficiency, but in regaurd the money due by law for quartering will not defray the charges thereof, that the convention should make good to him what he shall depurse over and above the money due by law for the said quartering. Which being considered by the convention they approve of the said report and declair they will make good to the receiver general what he shall fall short in the said quartering.

Hadingtoun's commission approven.

12. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Hadingtoun, they approve of the same.

Committee on ye riot at Linlithgow.

13. The same day the convention having heard from John Buckney, provost of Linlithgow, of a riot committed at the said burgh of Linlithgow upon Saturnday and Sunday last, by some of the souldiers of Briggadeer Barrell's regiment, with the procedure of the magistrats of the said burgh thereanent, they remit to the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee,

Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, and Dumbarton, to represent the same to Brigadier General Guest, and to demand satisfaction thereanent.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1739.

Committee on ye riot at Linlithgow.

14. The same day the agent produced his accompts which were ordered to lye upon the table.

Agent's accotts. presented.

15. The same day the agent produced in presence of the convention a list of the several burrows deficient in payment of their missive dues, which being read they appoint their agent to prosecute the burghs contain'd in the said list for payment of the same.

Agent to prosecut for missive dues.

16. The same day the convention having considered the committee's report upon the fifteenth article of the missive anent the viset appointed for the burgh of Bruntisland, they appoint their agent to pay to the clerk of the said burgh the sum of thirty pound sterling to be applyed toward the reparation of the peer of the said burgh.

Agent to pay Bruntisland 30 lit. sterl.

17. The same day there was presented to the convention a petition from the baillies and several other members of the town councill of Hadingtoun anent a declarator raised before the court of session at the instance of several members of the said councill, and offering to submit the differences amongst them to the determination of the convention, and in case the parties raisers of the declarator refuse to submit the same, craving the convention would grant their concurrance to the petitioners at the petitioners' own charge and expences. Which being considered by the convention they remit to the committee for the missive to consider the same and report, and allows all the members of the convention to be present in the said committee and have vote therein if they shall think propper.

Committee to consider a petition from the baillies & cyrs. in Hadingtoun.

18. The same day the proceedings of the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures for the year ending at Christmas last, and the payments made by the receiver general by their orders were presented to the convention and appointed to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

The proceedings of the trustees presented.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1739.

Anml. committee to consider the petition of ye baillies of Hadingtoun, &.

Eodem die post meridiem.

19. The same day upon report of the committee to whom the petition from the baillies and several of the members of the town council of the burgh of Hadingtoun was remitted, setting forth that several of the members of the said town council had raised a declarator before the lords of council and session in relation to several differences amongst themselves which the petitioners were willing to submit to the determination of the convention, craving therefor the convention would take cognizance thereof and prevent the consequences attending law processes as usual in the like caices, and if the pursuers of that declarator shall not agree to put ane end to those matters in dispute by a submission to the convention or their annual committee, that the agent be appointed to concurr with the petitioners in defence of the said proces to be carryed on at the petitioners' own expence. The convention remit the consideration thereof to the committee to be appointed to sit after dissolving this present convention with power to them to doe therein as they shall think propper, and for that end doe appoint that the pursuers of the forsaid declarator be furthwith served with a coppy of the said petition that they may attend the annual committee at their first meeting on Munday next, to show whether they will agree to submit, or if they will not submit to show cause why the burrows ought not to grant concurrance as desired.

Committee on the agent's accotts.

20. The same day the convention remit to the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, and Glasgow, as a committee to consider the agent's staple port, and provost Lindesay's accompts & report.

21. The same day the convention remit to the committee for the agent's accotts. to prepare and bring in the draught of ane act in relation to the royal infirmary.

Viset for Dysert. Missive.

22. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Kirkaldie, Bruntisland, Coupar, and Kinghorn, to viset the burgh of Dysert and report the case and condition thereof to the next annual convention, and this to be a head of the missive.

23. The same day the convention remit to the burghs of Jedburgh, Peebles, Lauder, and Lanerk, to viset the burgh of Selkirk and report the case and condition thereof to the next annual convention, and this to be a head of the missive.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1739. Viset for Selkirk. Missive.

24. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Inverary, they approve of the same.

Inverary's commission approven.

25. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Kinghorn complaining of several abuses in the manufacturing of threed stokins, they remit the consideration thereof to the annual committee to be appointed to sit after dissolving of this convention.

Annl. committee to consider Kinghorn's petition anent threed stokins.

5 July 1739.

26. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Week, they refuse to sustain the said commission, in respect the said burgh is resting several years' bygone cess and missive dues, and that the convention have ordered them to be quarter'd upon for the same.

Week's commn. rejected.

27. The same day the committee appointed to audit the agent's accompts reported that they having considered his accotts. of the unfree trade find that the agent's intromissions with the unfree trade since July last, inclusive of one thousand four hundred eighty-two pound four shilling six pennys $\frac{3}{12}$d. Scots money as the ballance due by him on his last accompt of missive dues, amounts to two thousand nine hundred and fifty-two pound nine shilling two pennies and six-twelveths of a penny Scots, and that his payments doe amount to three thousand five hundred thirty-five pound four shilling seven pennies Scots, whereby there is a ballance due to the agent on this accott. of five hundred eighty-two pound fifteen shilling four pennies and six-twelveths of a penny Scots money, for which he hath gott credit in his accotts. of missive dues, which is likeways filled of the date hereof, and the committee observed that there are several arrears due by the burghs of barrony and regality and particularly by the towns of Cockeny and Lymekilns which they are of oppinion the agent should be directed to doe dilligence for

Agent's accotts. of unfree trad audited and approven.

EDINBURGH, 5 July 1739.

Agent's accotts. of unfree trad audited and approven.

recovering payment of, by quartering or otherways. The instructions of the said accott. being seall'd by the preses are left in the clerk's hands. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the agent to doe dilligence agtt. the burghs of barrony and regality deficient in payt. of their cess and missive dues in the terms of the report, and of which accott. the tenor follows:—

Agent's accott. of unfree trade.

George Irving, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland, debr.

To cash received from the following burghs of barrony and regality, from 1st July 1738 to Do. 1739, vizt.:—

Greenock	for one year's cess and missive dues till 1st July 1738	- - - -	£265	6	0	0
Frazersburgh	for do. due at July 1737	- -	45	0	6	0
Do.	for do. due at July 1738	- -	49	14	10	6
Leven	for do. due at July 1738	- -	66	6	6	0
Kilmarnock	for do. due at July 1738	- -	66	6	6	0
Dalkeith	for do. due at July 1738	- -	132	13	0	0
Down	for do. due at July 1738	- -	11	1	1	0
Dunnikier	for do. due at July 1738	- -	22	2	2	0
Borrowstoness	for do. due at July 1738	- -	165	16	3	0
Prestonpans	for do. due at July 1738	- -	165	16	3	0
Peterhead	for do. due at July 1738	- -	66	6	6	0
Stonhyve	for do. due at July 1737	- -	30	0	4	0
Eli	for do. due at July 1738	- -	33	3	3	0
Oldmeldrum	for do. due at July 1737	- -	22	10	3	0
Do.	for do. due at July 1738	- -	24	17	5	3
Kilwinning	for do. due at July 1738	- -	16	11	7	6
Aloa	for do. due at July 1738	- -	82	18	1	6
St Ninians	for do. due at July 1738	- -	15	15	7	0
Saltcoats	for do. due at July 1738	- -	132	13	0	0
Musselburgh	for do. due at July 1738	- -	33	3	3	0
			£1470	4	7	9

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade.

To the ballance due by the compter on his last year's accott. of missive dues appointed to be charged on this accompt - - - -	£1482	4	6	9
Sum - -	£2952	9	2	6
Ballance due to the agent for which he has taken credit in this year's accott. of missive dues -	582	15	4	6
	£3535	4	7	0

Contra Creditor

By a year's missive dues of the burghs of barrony and regality from July 1738 to Do. 1739, effeiring to 5-10 in the tax roll - - -	£784	14	7	0
By payments for partys for quartering pr. 39th act of convn. 1730 - - - -	60	0	0	0
By cash to the general receiver in full of eight moneths' supply for the burghs of barrony & regality from the 25th of March 1738 to Do. 1739 £224 4 2 sterl. inde. - - - - -	2690	10	0	0
Sum	£3535	4	7	0

[28. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited & approven.]

George Irving, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland.

Agent's accott. of missive dues.

Debr.

To one year's missive dues from the first of July 1738 to Do. 1739 - - - - -				£14,000	0	0
To the prinle. sum in Mr George Smollet's bond - - -	£1951	19	8			
9½ years' intrest thereof to the 25th of May 1738 - -	927	4	0			
1 year's intrest yrof. to the 25th of May 1739 - - -	97	12	0			
	£2976	15	8			

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739. Agent's accott. of missive dues.

To Do.'s recept granted to the town of St Ninians, dated Ffebry. 9th 1722. Not accompted for -	£74 12 2	
Sum -	£3,051 7 10	
Whereof payed in part of the intrest of Do. bond at July 1732, and accompted for that year -	182 16 0	
Remains due by Mr Smollet		£2,868 11 10
Sum		£16,868 11 10

Contra	Crer.
By cash payed to the city of Edinbr. as the 2nd moyetie of 1000 lit. sterl., allowed by the 32nd act of convention, in July 1737 - - -	£4000 0 0
Pay'd for 62 coppys of a letter concerning the linnen trade - - - - - -	18 12 0
By ane allowance to the conservator in full of his charges to Campvere - - - -	300 0 0
To ditto to make up the deficiency of the 50 lit. allowed to his dept. - - - -	201 3 0
By the prinle. clerk's sallary - - -	600 0 0
To the agent of sallary - - - -	600 0 0
To his servant of sallary - - - -	120 0 0
To the lord advocat, as assessor, of sallary - -	333 6 8
To his servant of sallary - - - -	60 0 0
To the conservator of sallary - - -	600 0 0
To David Flint, secretary to the trustees, for his own & clerk's sallary - - - -	960 0 0
To the relict of William Blackwood for rent of the trustees' office - - - - -	240 0 0
To Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent at London, of sallary	300 0 0

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739. Agent's accott. of missive dues.

To Allan Whitfoord, receiver, for his clerks' sallary	£240	0	0
To James Nasmyth, dept. clerk, of sallary -	240	0	0
To Archibald Blair of sallary - - -	240	0	0
To Do. for his writings to the annual committee -	120	0	0
To the burrow officer of sallary - - -	240	0	0
To Do. of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble -	48	0	0
To the usher of exchequer - - -	60	0	0
To the clerk to the burrow aeque - - -	60	0	0
To the keeper of the advocats' bar - - -	29	0	0
To the macers of excheqr. - - - -	26	13	4
To the macers of session - - - -	26	13	4
To the presenter of signatures and his servt. -	71	12	0
To the gardner of Heriot's hospital for flowers -	12	0	0
To the keeper of the burrow roume - -	15	0	0
To the two doorkeepers of excheqr. - -	17	12	0
To this year's general missive - - -	36	0	0
To Mr Thomas White at London as the burrows' expence of ye linnen bill - - -	1,200	0	0
To the agent for incidents - - - -	120	0	0
By the ballance due to the compter on this year's accott. of unfree trade - - - - -	582	15	$4\frac{6}{12}$
	£11,718	7	$8\frac{6}{12}$
By ane year's intrest of the above sum - -	585	18	4
By the sum in Mr George Smollet's bond yet resting - - - - -	2,868	11	10
	£15,172	17	$10\frac{6}{12}$
Ballance due by the agent - -	1,695	13	$11\frac{6}{12}$
	£16,868	11	10

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739.

Horning agt. deficients.

And the convention appoint letters of horning to be direct at the agent's instance against such of the royal burrows as are deficient in payment of their proportions of the aforsaid sum of fifteen thousand pound Scots of missive dues, conform to a list to be signed by the agent.

[29. Agent to pay the conservator £10, 13s. 11d. sterl. 30. Agent to pay to Patrick Lindsay £18, 1s. sterl.]

Annl. committee to consider Mr Dad. Malcolm's proposal

31. The same day the convention remit to the annual committee to be appointed to sit after dissolving of this convention, to consider of a proposal offered to be made by the Rev. Mr David Malcolm, minister of the gosple at Dudinstoun, for the honour and benefit of the royal burrows.

Act recommending voluntary collections to be made in each royal burrow for the infirmary.

32. The same day the convention considering that there is a most usefull and necessary work carrying on in Edinbr. by the name of the royal infirmary for the intertaining and cureing of sick and diseased poor from whatever corner of the nation they come, that the house is projected to have conveniencies to accommodat above two hundred patients, whereof there is already founded so much as will lodge seventy-two, which the manadgers are hopefull to have ready next year to intertain patients, that the house is to be attended by the colledge of physicians and the corporation of surgeons gratis, and that all the students of physick and surgery will be allowed to attend the dayly practise in the hospital, and to take from a fair register to be keept in the house excerpts of the history and practise in every noted case for payt. of a smal yearly sum, and the convention being willing to give all encouragment to so noble and pious ane undertaking, they therefor recommend it to the magistrats and council of every royal burrow (if they think it propper), to make collections therefor, either by going from house to house, or in such way as they shall think fitt, and to remit the same to David Spence, secretary to the bank of Scotland and treasr. to the royal infirmary, and they appoint their agent to print this act and recommendation and send a coppy of it to every royal burrow without loss of time.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739

[33. Viset for Fortrose, Missive. 34. The clerks appointed to deliver up the bond granted by the manadger for Jedburgh. 35. Agent to give allowance to Mr George Smollet of 50 lit. sterl.]

Report from Brigadeer Guest.

36. The same day the commissioner for Linlithgow reported that he and the other members appointed to wait of Brigadeer Guest was with him yesterday. That the brigadier received them exceeding civilly, and was extreamly sorrow for what had happened. He told them he would immediatly order the two fellows into custody. That four of the committee had waited of the brigadeer this day when he called for the livt. collonell, commanding officer of the regimt. and the capt. that commanded the detachment at Linlithgow. That the capt. declaired that the two fellows had never joined the detachment since they left Linlithgow, nor are not now in the regiment. That the brigadeer had given orders to secure them, and as a detatchment of ane other regiment was to march into Linlithgow as of yesterday, the brigadeer told them he had sent ane of the aid de camps to stop them before they entered the town with orders to the commanding officer to give out the following order, that none of the souldiers should disturb or attack any of the inhabitants, that if they received affronts or injurys from the inhabitants they were not to resent it but to apply to their officer who would inform the civil magistrat.

Annl. committee to apply for a copper coynage.

37. The same day the convention considering that there is a great scarcity of copper coin in this part of the United Kingdom, therefor they remit to the annual committee to make such application as they shall think propper to procure a copper coinage in this place, or to be supply'd with such a quantity of copper coin as may be necessary for making a circulation in this part of the Kingdom, and appoint the agent to advance what money may be necessary for making the said application.

[38. Absent burghs excused. 39. Absent burghs fyned in 100 lit. each. 40. Agent to defend agt. Cheisleys.]

Annual committee appointed.

41. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow,

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739. Annual committee appointed.

Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Irving, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Peebles, Fforress, Cullen, Annan, Lochmabin, Dingwall, Ffortrose, Inverary, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun, as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows and between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing touching unfree traders and the communication of trade, declairing that five, Edinburgh being always one, shall be a quorum in every matter except in such cases as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum. And furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliamt. shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay, but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July 1734.

Agent to pay sallarys and gratuitys.

42. The same day the convention appoints their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuities following from the first day of July iajvij & and thirty-nine to the first day of July iajvij & and fourty years, vizt. :— to the prinle. clerk, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty

pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterl. of sallary; to the lord advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servt., sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., conservator, fifty pound sterl. of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to the relict of Willm. Blackwood, mercht., twenty pounds sterling for the rent of the trustees' office; to Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent at London, twenty-five pound sterling of sallary; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterl. for his clerk's sallary; to James Nasmyth, dept. clerk, twenty pound sterl. of sallary; to Archibald Blair, twenty pounds sterl. of sallary and ten pound sterl. of gratuity on accott. of his writings to the annual committee; to the burrow officer, twenty pound sterl. of sallary and four pound sterl. of gratuity on accott. of his extraordinary trouble; to the usher of exchequer, five pound sterl.; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, five pounds sterling; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to the macers of exchequer, fourty merks; to the macers of session, fourty merks; to the presenter of signatures and his servant, seventy-one pound twelve shilling Scots; to the gardner of Heriot's hospital, twelve pound Scots for flowers; to the keeper of the burrow roume, fifteen pounds Scots; to the two doorkeepers of exchequer, seventeen pound twelve shilling Scots equally betwixt them.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1739. Agent to pay sallarys and gratuitys.

43. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention, and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

The convention dissolved.

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

9 July 1739.

James Colhoun, Esq., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, John Brown & Willm. Mitchell; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Cullen,

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1739. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1739.

Sederunt.

Mr James Philp; Air, Andrew Huntar; Fortrose, Mr Hugh Forbes; Campbeltoun, Alex. M'Millan.

Preses chosen.

The which day the committee elect James Colhoun, present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Agent to concurr wt. the baillies of Hadingtoun, &ca.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the baillies, dean of gild, treasurer, and other councillors of the burgh of Hadingtoun adhereing to them, wt. the haill deacons of crafts of the said burgh, and the other partys being summoned to this day and being called, compeared, Andrew Chalmers, writer in Edinburgh, and verbally acquainted the committee that he had received a letter from the pursuers of the declarator wherein they represented to him that the subject matter to be declair'd as it was a popular action might be insisted upon again and again by individuall burgeses, and therefor was not a propper thing to be by them submitted to the committee, and as the cause stood ready prepared to be advised by the lords, therefor his imployers did not oppose the committee giving what powers to their agent they thought propper, and the committee having taken the same to their consideration, they appoint their agent to concurr with the defenders of the action and that upon their own charges and expences allennarly.

4 October 1739.

Sederunt.

James Colhoun, esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, George Haliburton; Cullen, Mr James Philip; Elgin, Mr Willm. Forbes; Dingwall, Alexander Jolly; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar; Dunbarton, Archd. M'Aulay.

The which day there was presented to the annual committee a petition for Mr Alexander Nisbet of Northfeild, complaining that the baillie and stentmasters of the west part of Prestonpans had for some years past taken the liberty to impose a part of their cess and missive dues upon the petitioner for his brickwork, albeit he as burges of Edinbr pays cess wt. that burgh, and he pays also cess for his land in the country out of the ground of which he makes his brick. Which being

read the committee appoint the baillie and stentmasters of Prestonpans to be served with a coppy of the said bill in order to answer the same on or before the eighteenth instant. EDINBURGH. 4 October 1739.

The same day the committee being informed that by reason of the backwardness of the season the table damask which was to have contended at Edinburgh for the prize of eleven pound two shillings & two pence sterl. had not been sent in from the different bleachfeilds, therefor the committee prorogat the time for contending untill Thursday the eighteenth instant at ten in the forenoon, when the person who shall produce in the burrow roume of Edinbr. the best woven and best whiten'd table damask shall draw the aforsaid prize, and appoints the agent to advertise the same in the Edinbr. newspapers of Munday, Tuesday, and Thursday next.

18 October 1739.

James Colhoun, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, George Haliburton & Wm. Mitchel; St Andrews, Willm. Douglas; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Dunbarton, Archd. M'Aulay; Elgin, Mr Willm. Forbes; Dingwall, Alexr. Jolly. Sederunt.

The which day Mr Alexr. Nisbet, surgeon in Edr., produced ane execution of warning under the hand of John Johnstoun, officer to the royal burrows, bearing that he had lawlly. warn'd the baillie and stentmaster of the wester part of Prestonpans, who being called and not compearing, the committee remit to the lord provost of Edinbr., their preses, to lay Mr Nisbet's complaint before the lord advocat, their assessor, & Mr Hugh Forbes, advocat, and take their advice how the committee should proceed therein.

16 November 1739.

James Colhoun, lord provost of Edr., preses; Edinburgh, George Haliburton; Inverness, John Baillie; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Forres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Dingwall, Alexander Jolly. Sederunt.

Edinburgh. 16 November 1739.

Agent to pay the prizes.

The which day there was presented to the committee by Archibald Howie, present deacon of the weavers of Edinbr., a certificat in his favours under the hand of the magistrats of Edinbr. bearing that upon the eighteenth of October last he had gain'd the prize of eleven pound two shillings & two pence sterling as having presented the best table damask, and also produced a certificat under the hand of the magistrats of Coupar bearing that he, the said Archibald Howie, had gain'd the prize of seven pounds eight shillings and two pence sterl. as having presented the best diaper at the said burgh upon the sixteen day of August last, and also there was produced two certificats in favours of David and Alexander Harts, weavers in Dumfermling, under the hand of the magistrats of the said burgh bearing that they had gain'd the first and second prizes of seven pound eight shillings and one penny halfpenny each as having presented the best diaper at the said burgh. Which being all read, the committee appoint their agent to pay the said prizes to the several persons abovenamed.

Act anent Mr Alex. Nisbet, surgeon

The same day the preses reported that according to the remit of the committee to him, he had advised wt. the lord advocat and Mr Hugh Forbes, advocat, anent the petition and complaint of Mr Alexr. Nisbet, surgeon in Edinr., touching his being stented for his brick work at Prestonpans, & that they were of oppinion in regaurd the baillie and stentmasters of the wester part of Prestounpans have been served with a coppy of the said petition, and had given in no answers thereto, that therefor the petitioner should not be subjected to any stent on accompt of his brickwork at least untill they show cause for the same. Which being considered by the committee, they approve of the said oppinion and report.

20 February 1740.

Sederunt.

James Colhoun, lord provost of Edr.; Edinbr., William Mitchell; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Campbeltoun, Mr Alexr. M'Millan: Wigtoun, David Baird; Inverness, John Baillie.

[John Mouat chosen ffactor at Campvere.]

15 April 1740.

EDINBURGH. 15 April 1740. Sederunt.

James Colhoun, lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., George Haliburton & Willm. Mitchell; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dumbarton, Archd. M'Aulay; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

The which day the preses having acquainted the committee that he was credibly inform'd from several of the inhabitants and others that the price of oats had exceeded eleven shillings and sixpence sterl. the Linlithgow boll, and that considerable quantitys of oats were bought up for exportation, which would greatly affect the poor inhabitants of royal burrows, the committee appointed the preses to give in a representation thereof to the commissioners of the board of customs in the following terms :—

Unto the Honble. the Commissioners of his Majesties Customs, the representation of the annual committee of the convention of royal burrows,

Sheweth,—

That by two several acts of parliament past in the 5th year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Ann, which laws in virtue of the union now take place in Scotland, it was enacted that a bounty to the extent therein mentioned should be allowed to the exporter of the several sorts of corn therein specifyed.

Which acts contain several limitations to which the exporter was to be subject before he was intitled to the sd. bounty, and particularly with regaurd to oatmeal. The bounty was only to be allowed when the oats did not exceed in price 5 shillings per quarter Winchester measure, which is 11s. 6d. the Linlithgow boll.

That the committee, moved out of a tender regaurd to the poor inhabitants of the respective burghs as well as of the countys of this kingdom, find themselves oblidged to represent to you that from their own knowledge and from the best information they can have in this and the West country, that the price of oats does exceed the price specifyed in the said statut, and that in the present situation of the

EDINBURGH. 15 April 1740.

country ane exportation to forreign mercats of oat meal threatnes the poor with distress through want.

They do therefor pray that the honble. commissioners will give directions to their several officers at the respective ports not to admit an entry of any meal for export, soe as to entitle to the bounty, unless the exporter shall, by the certificat of the quarter sessions, &c., in the terms of the Act 2d, George 2d, chap. 18 sect. 5, prove that the oats sell at the port of exportation at a lower price than what is specifyed in the Acts before mentioned.

Edinbr., 17th April 1740, signed in presence & by appointment of the annual committee by James Colhoun, preses.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

1 July 1740.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1740. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Haliburton & Geo. Cunningham; Pearth, James Cree; Dundee, John Donaldson; Aberdeen, Alexander Mitchell; Stirling, Mr James Erskin; Linlithgow, John Bucknay; St Andrews, William Douglas; Glasgow, William Aiton; Air, Thomas Garvin; Hadingtoun, Mr Charles Cockburn; Dysert, David Reddie; Kirkaldie, Hercules Smyth; Montrose, George Murison; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, Andrew Crosbie; Inverness, Duncan Forbes, Esqr.; Bruntisland, James Oswald; Innerkeithing, John Cant; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, David Doig; Irving, James Cunningham; Jedburgh, Robt. Ker, Esqr.; Kirkudbright, Willm. Gordon; Wigtoun, Alexander, Lord Garlies; Pittenweem, George Clelland; Dumferling, Lord Charles Hay; Anstr. Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Thomas Laurie; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Ranfrew, John Paterson; Dumbar, Capt. James Fall; Lanerk, John Russell; Aberbrothock, John Wallace; Elgin, William Forbes; Peebles, John Ramadge; Craill, Mr Robert Clelland; Tain, Charles Ross; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Banf, Patrick Forbes; Whithorn, John Stewart;

Forress, Mr Hugh Forbes; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; North Berwick, Sr. Hugh Hamilton; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, George Romainons; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Mr Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, Charles Crighton; New Gallaway, William Gordon; Dingwall, Kenneth Bayne; Dornock, John Baillie; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Fortrose, William Forbes; Kintore, Mr Robert Bruce; Inverurie, Mr James Ferguson; Inverary, Archibald Campbell; Wick, Coll. Robert Monro; Kirkwall, Nicol Spense; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Campbelltoun, Mr Alexr. M'Millan; (four burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1740. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect James Colquhoun, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses during the sitting of this present convention, who being present and accepting, gave his oath *de fideli*, being formerly qualifyed to his Majesty in the same capacity.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Dumfermling, Dumbarton, Dunbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Culross, Forress, Annan, Lochmabin, and Inverary, as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this present convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the haill commissions of the committee, and such of the members and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—George Cunningham, commissioner, Robert Purvis and James Ker, assessors, for Edinbr.; Charles Ailison, assessor for Pearth; Sr. Robert Lauder, assessor for Lochmabin; and Mr Charles Cochran, commissioner for Culross.

Committee to revise the commissions.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1740.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

3. The committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they having heard the commissions for the burghs of Anstruther Easter, Inverness, Kinghorn, Brechin, Irving, Kirkudbright, Pittenweem, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Elgin, Craill, Banf, Whithorn, Rutherglen, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Dornock, Queensferry, Fortrose, Kintore, Inverurie, Wick, Kirkwall, and Inverbervie, they were of oppinion the convention should approve of the said commissions. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof accordingly.

Commissions approven.

4. The same day the convention having heard the commission from the burgh of Peebles, and a commission from the burgh of Dingwall, they approve of the said commission.

The annuall missive remit to a committee.

5. The same day the convention having heard the present annual missive read in their presence, they remit the consideration thereof to the committee for the missive, to whom they add the burghs of Kinghorn, Irving, Ranfrew, Peebles, Banf, Whithorn, Cullen, Fortrose, Selkirk, & Rutherglen.

Report of the trustees presented.

6. The same day the report from the commissioners and trustees for improvement of fisherys and manufactures and the payments made by the general receiver for these purposes were presented to the convention and order'd to lye upon the table.

Agent's accotts. presented.

7. The same day the agent presented his accompts to the convention, which were order'd to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Annl. committee's proceedings approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve of the same.

2 July 1740.

Heads & articles of the missive continued.

9. The which day the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive reported that they having met and considered the same

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1740.

Heads & articles of the missive continued.

they were of oppinion as follows, vizt. :—that the first article anent the platform and qualifications to commissioners for conventions be continued ane article of the next annual missive, the second anent the missive dues be continued, the third anent the stoping of signatures in excheqr. for monopolies, the fourth anent the misapplying of mortifications within burgh, the ffifth anent the selling of salt otherways than by weight, the sixth anent the selling & buying of ffresh herrings by met and not by tale, the seventh anent the residence of burgeses within burgh, the eight anent the abuses and transgressions of the laws and regulations relateing to trade, the ninth anent the giveing commissions to wreck and curemasters, the tenth anent the standart of the reill of worsted yarn, should be also continued with this addition, and to render it more practicable to examin the number & tale and detect frauds from false tale, that from and after the twenty-ninth day of September next each hank shall be divided into twenty-four parts, and each part to consist of thirty threeds, tyed up together, and notise thereof to be timeously given in the Edinburgh newspapers, and that it be referred to the annual committee to consider what may be furder necessary to make this regulation effectual, and also what furder regulations may thereto be necessary and to doe therein as they shall see meet; the eleventh anent the retaill of lintseed by the Linlithgow measure, the twelveth anent the right measureing of linnen cloath, the thirteenth anent the frauds committed in curing and packing of salmond, the fourteenth anent the sending of commissioners from the royal burrows to the General Assembly, & the ffifteenth article anent the staple port should all be continued; the sixteenth article anent the viset appointed for the burgh of Dysert, and having heard the report of the visiters appointed thereto they were of oppinion the said burgh deserves the aid and assistance of the convention; and having considered the seventeenth article anent the viset appointed for the burgh of Selkirk, they were of oppinion the same should be dilate; & the eighteen article anent the viset appointed for the burgh of Fortrose, and having heard the report of the visiters they were of oppinion the said burgh deserves the aid and assistance

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1740.

Agent to pay 25 ll. to Dysert & 20 ll. to Fortrose.

of the convention. All which being considered by the convention they approve of the same, & the convention appoints their agent to pay to the said burgh of Dysert the sum of twenty-five pound sterling, and to the burgh of Fortrose the sum of twenty pound sterling, to be applyed by them for the purposes mentioned in the report.

Commissions approven.

10. The same day the convention having heard the commissions for the burghs of Hadingtoun and North Berwick, they approve of the same, and the members qualifyed themselves to his Majesty King George by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

[11. Agent to defend Margt. Cheisley's claim. 12. List of burrows resting missive dues.]

Committee to viset Dornock. Missive.

13. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Inverness, Tain, Dingwall, and Fortrose to viset the burgh of Dornock, and report the case and condition thereof to the next annual convention.

Committee to open the instructions of Mr Smollet's accotts.

14. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Craill, they remit to the committee to be appointed for the agent's accompts to inspect the accotts. of Mr George Smollet for the year 1728, and to open the instructions thereof, and to report how the same stands with respect to the twenty pounds allowed for that burgh in the year 1728.

Recommendation anent ozenburgs.

15. The same day the convention having heard a memorial from the factors at London dealing in linnen cloath from Scotland, they recommend to the trustees for improvement of manufactures to give what encuragement they shall see propper for promoteing the manufacture of ozenburgs.

Few contracts for Lochmabin approven.

16. The same day the convention having heard a petition for the burgh of Lochmabin with a report of the burrows appointed to oversee the fewing out of the common muir of the said burgh, they approve of the few contracts already enter'd into by them and appoints the same to be recorded after the acts of this convention, and allow

the said burgh at the sight of the commissioners formerly mentioned to ffew such other parts of their said land as they shall see necessary when occasion offers, and to report the same to the convention.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1740.

Few contracts for Lochmabin approven.

17. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, and Inverbervie as a committee of their number to wait on his Grace the Duke of Argyle, and to assure him of the great regaurd they have for his Grace's person and family, and to declair their intire satisfaction with his Grace's appearances for the honour and intrest of his Majesty, the preservation of the liberties of his Majesties subjects, the commerce of the nation, the rights and priviledges of the royal burrows, and the town of Edinbr. in particular.

Committee appointed to wait on his Grace the Duke of Argyle, &.

18. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edr., Perth, Dundee, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Montrose, Dumfreise, and Dumbar as a committee to consider the agent's accompts of missive dues and unfree trade, and the conservator's accotts. of the staple port.

Committee to audit the agent's accotts.

Eodem die post meridiem.

[19. Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited. 20. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited. 21. Agent to discount 50 lit. sterl. to Mr Smollet if he pay before Lambas. 22. Agent to pay to ye conservator £25, 5s. 3½d. 23. Report of the committee who inspected Mr Smollet's instructions anent Craill.]

24. The same day the convention appointed the prizes of table linnen given by Mr Onslow to be contended for upon Thursday, the day of October next, and upon the same terms as formerly appointed.

Prizes for table linnen.

[25. Few contract by Queensferry to Archd. Stewart approven.]

26. The same day the convention having heard a letter of excuse from the Provost of Forfar for not sending up a commissioner to this

Forfar excused.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1740. Forfar excused.

present convention, they excuse the said burgh for the reasons mentioned in the said missive for this year, but appoint them to give obedience to the general missive as to the sending up their commissioner yearly in time coming.

Annl. committee to promote the export of fforeign salt.

27. The same day it being represented to the convention that there were several merchants in the seaport burrows possest of considerable quantitys of forreign salt which had been enter'd upon oath for cureing of fish, & on the 24th of March last was weighted over to the propper officers of his Majesties customs in whose hands the keys of the warehouses (where the said salt is) are now lodged, and as there is no use for the same in cureing of fish, the proprietors design to export the same, which the commissioners of his Majestie's customs doe refuse, and which refusall is a great detriment to trade. Which being considered by the convention they remit to the annual committee to consider the said representation, and doe hereby impower the said committee to authorize their agent to pay out any sum may be necessary for rendering their endeavours effectual in procureing liberty for exporting such salt which sum is not to exceed one hundred pound sterling.

Agent to pay sallarys & gratuitys.

28. The same day the convention appoints their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—To the prinle. clerk, ffifty pound sterling of sallary; to the agent, ffifty pound sterl. of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterl. of sallary; to the lord advocat as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, sixty pound Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, conservator, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to the relict of William Blackwood, mercht., twenty pound sterling for the rent of the trustees' office; to Mr Wm. Hamilton, agent at London, twenty-five pound sterl. of sallary; to Allan Whitefoord, receiver general, twenty pound sterl. for his clerk's sallary; to James Nasmyth, deput clerk, twenty pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, twenty pound sterling of sallary & ten pound sterling of gratuity on

accompt of his writings to the annual committee; to the burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary and four pound sterling of gratuity on accott. of his extraordinary trouble; to the usher of exchequer, five pound sterling; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, five pound sterling; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pounds Scots; to the macers of excheqr., ffourty merks; to the macers of session, fourty merks; to the presenter of signatures and his servant, seventy-one pound twelve shilling Scots; to the gardner of Herriot's Hospitall, twelve pound Scots for flowers; to the keeper of the burrow roume, ffifteen pound Scots; to the two doorkeepers of excheqr., seventeen pound twelve shilling Scots equally betwixt them.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1740.

Agent to pay sallarys & gratuitys.

3 July 1740.

29. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Tain and Campbeltoun, they approve of the same.

Commissions approven.

30. The same day the committee appointed to wait upon his Grace the Duke of Argyle reported that they had this day waited upon his Grace and pay'd their complements to him according to the appointment of the convention.

Committee's report from Argyle.

31. The same day the convention remit to the annual committee to use their utmost endeavours to procure a table of fees for the custom house officers at the several ports, and appoints their clerks to write to each of the royal burrows and acquaint them hereof, and to desire them to send a coppy of what fees are pay'd at their several ports, and of what abuses have been committed in collecting of fees at their respective ports, and impower the said committee to appoint their agent to issue out a sum not exceeding one hundred pound sterling in order to obtain redress yrin.

Committee to apply for a table of custom house ffees.

32. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Brunt-

Annual committee appointed.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1740.

Annual committee appointed.

island, Irving, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Peebles, Tain, Forress, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Lochmabin, New Gallaway, Fortrose, Inverary, Wick, and Campbeltoun as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade, declairing that five (Edinburgh being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum. And furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay, but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the 26th act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be to-morrow at twelve a cloak.

Convention dissolved.

33. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh, upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred

and ffourty-one years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1740. Convention dissolved.

Follows the disposition by the magistrats and town councill of Queensferry to Baillie Archibald Stewart, appointed to be recorded by the 25th act of the foregoing convention.

. . . . . .

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

8 July 1740.

James Colhoun, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., George Haliburton; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dysert, George Irving; Inverness, John Baillie; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Pittenweem, Mr Robt. Clelland.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1740. Sederunt.

The which day the committee having taken into their consideration the remit of the last general convention concerning the fees of the custom house officers, they appoint their clerk to write to the several tradeing burrows within the kingdom that they would send up ane accott. of what fees are exacted by the custom house officers at their ports, and what they have reason to complain of as undue exactions, that the committee may be furnisht with propper materials in order to obtain redress.

Letters to the trading burrows anent the custom house fees.

6 November 1740.

Edinbr., George Haliburton, preses; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dysert, George Irving; Wigtoun, David Baird; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Sederunt.

The which day Archibald Howie, late deacon of the weavers of Edinbr., presented to the committee two certificats, one under the hand the magistrats of Edinbr. of the date the sixteenth of October last, bearing that he had that day exhibited a peice of broad damask table

Agent appointed to pay to Dn. Howie prize money.

EDINBURGH. 6 November 1740.

Agent appointed to pay to Dn. Howie prize money.

cloath, two and a half yeards broad and twelve yeards long, with two dozen of damask napkins, seven-eights broad, all woven, bleacht, and lapp'd in Scotland for sale, in order to contend for the prize of eleven pound two shillings and two pence, appointed to be contended for at Edinbr. upon the said day, but that none other damask table cloaths and napkins being presented, the said magistrats had declaired the prize to belong to him the said Archd. Howie; and the other certificat under the hand of the magistrats of Coupar, bearing that he, the said Archibald, did upon the twenty-first of August last produce before them at the said burgh of Coupar a peice of diaper or Dornock table cloath, consisting of twelve yeards in length and two yeards and a half in breadth, and two dozen of napkins, seven-eights broad, in order to contend for the prize of seven pound eight shillings and two pence sterling at that burgh, and that none others being presented the said magistrats did declair that the said prize did belong to him, and therefor craved that the annual committee would appoint their agent to pay the said prize money to him. Which being considered by the committee, and they having heard the aforsaid two certificats read in their presence, they appoint their agent to pay to the said Archibald Howie the forsaid two prizes of eleven pound two shillings and two pence sterl. and seven pound eight shillings sterling out of the money imprest in his hand by the Honble. Arthur Onslow, Esqr., Speaker to the House of Commons, given by him for the encouragment of the manufacture of table linnen.

11 November 1740.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Haliburton, Esqr., preses; Air, Andrew Hunter; Stirling, Mr James Erskin; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Dysert, George Irving; Pittenweem, Robt. Clelland; Forres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Elgin, William Forbes; Dumbarton, Archd. M'Aulay.

Agent appointed to pay to Alexr. and David Harts their prizes.

The which day John Flockhart, writer in Edinr., presented to the committee two certificats under the hand of the magistrats of Dumferling both dated the twenty-first day of August last, the one in favours of

EDINBURGH. 11 November 1740.

Agent appointed to pay to Alexr. and David Harts their prizes.

Alexander Hart, weaver, burges of Dumferling, and the other in favours of David Hart, also weaver in the said burgh, bearing that the said Alexander had that day presented to the magistrats twelve yeards of diaper or Dornock two yeards broad, and two dozen napkins of the same figure three-quarters broad, and that the said David Hart had also presented before them twelve yeards of diaper or Dornock two and a half yeards broad, and two dozen of napkins of the same figure seven-eights broad, which two peices were found and adjudged to be the best of their several qualitys and denominations which had contended for the two prizes of seven pound eight shillings two pence sterling each, appointed to be contended for at the said burgh upon the said twenty-first day of August last, and therefor craved that the committee would appoint their agent to pay the said Alexander and David Harts their several prizes abovementioned. Which certificats being read in presence of the committee they appoint their agent to pay to the said Alexander and David Harts the forsaid sum of seven pound eight shillings and two pence sterling each out of the money imprest in his hand by the Right Honble. Arthur Onslow, Esqr., Speaker to the House of Commons, as being the last moyetie of one hundred pounds sterling given by him for the encouragment of the manufacture of table linnen in Scotland.

Petition & complaint the magistrats of Dingwall agt. Sr. Robert Monro.

The same day Ronald Bayne of Delny gave in a memorial sign'd by him as one of the baillies of Dingwall in name of the magistrats and town councill of the said burgh, complaining of several abuses and attacks made upon the councillors and inhabitants of the said burgh of Dingwall by Sr. Robert Monro of Fowlis and those of his party at the time of the late election of the magistrats and councill of the said burgh, and therefor craving the aid and concurrance of the royal burrows in two several processes raised at their instance against him, one before the Lords of Session and the other before the Court of Justiciary. Which being read, the committee appoint Sr. Robert Monro to answer the said memorial against Thursday next at three in the afternoon, for which effect David Monro, writer to the signet, his doer was this day served with a coppy of the said memorial in presence of the committee.

EDINBURGH. 13 November 1740. Sederunt.

13 November 1740.

Edinbr., George Halliburton, preses, & George Cunningham; Stirling, Mr James Erskin; Inverness, John Baillie; Montrose, John Coutts; Wigtoun, David Baird; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Dysert, George Irving; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Pittenween, Robert Clelland; Elgin, Mr Wm. Forbes; Forres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Wick, David Monro; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

The agent appointed to concurr wt. the magistrats of Dingwall or Sr. Robt. Monro, whoever shall be found to have been in the right.

The which day the committee having again heard the memorial given in and sign'd by Ronald Bayn of Delny for himself as baillie and in name of the magistrats and town councill of the burgh of Dingwall, complaining of several abuses committed by Sr. Robert Monro of Fowlis and those of his party against the said magistrats and councillors at the time of the late election in the said burgh, and therefor craving the concurrance of the royal burrows in the two several processes raised against him, and having also heard the answers made by the said Sr. Robert Monro to the said memorial, with a counter memorial given in for Duncan Monro of Obsdale, provost, William Fraser and John Monro, baillies, and the remanent town council of the said burgh of Dingwall, complaining of several abuses committed by Kenneth Bayne of Tulloch, Ronald Bayne of Delny, and others of their party at the time of the late elections in the said burgh, and therefor craving the aid and concurrance of the royal burrows to defend them in the two several processes abovementioned, and the committee having fully heard both party's procutors as to the matters set furth in their said several memorials, they find that the committee have no powers to issue money without particular authority from the convention, and as they have at present no such authority, they declair they will recommend to the next annual convention for their aid the party who shall be found by the propper court to have been in the right.

The draught of a petition.

The same day the preses represented that as the pryce of all kind of grain has risen considerably for some time past, and that there is too

much ground to suspect that there will be yet a greater dearth, incase a stop be not put to the exportation of corn, it was highly reasonable for the royal burrows to make ane application to parliament that a speedy stop may be put to the said exportation, and presented the draught of a petition for that effect. Which being read, the committee approve thereof and appoint their preses to sign the same and to transmit it to Patrick Lindesay, Esqr., representative for Edinbr., to be by him presented in parliament, and appoint their preses also to write to the representatives of the royal burrows in parliament, that they would use their endeavours to promote the same, and of which petition the tenor follows :—

EDINBURGH. 13 November 1740.

The draught of a petition.

To the Honble. the Commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, the humble petition of the annual committee of the convention of royal burrows of Scotland,

Sheweth—

Petition.

That by several acts of parliament of Scotland, particularly by the 9th act, anno 1703, intituled act discharging importation of Irish victual, beef, and cattle, and the other acts therein recited, the importation of victual from Ireland and all other foreign parts is prohibit under severe penaltys, but with a proviso that when by reason of dearth the prices of victual exceed the rates thereinmentioned, vizt. :—Wheat, twelve pound Scots, *id est* one pound sterling pr. boll; bean and meal, barley and malt, eight pound Scots, *id est* thirteen shillings and four pence sterling pr. boll; oatts and pease, six pound Scots, *id est* ten shillings sterling pr. boll; the lords of privy councill should have power after due tryal by them taken, to suspend and discharge the execution of the said prohibitory acts for such space and time as the exigency of the said dearth shall require and no longer.

That by act of parliament of Great Britain since the Union, the privy councill of Scotland being abolished, there is no power now subsisting in any court in Scotland enabling them to suspend the execution of the forsaid laws, notwithstanding of the greatest dearth and scarcity, which by experience hath been found greatly hurtfull to

Edinburgh. 13 November 1740. Petition.

that part of the kingdom, particularly the last and present years when scarcity hath been and is so great and prices of victual so high that the poorer sort of people, day labourers and others, have been and are in danger of starving for want, which might be in some measure remeided if sufficient powers were lodged by law in propper hands, in place of the privy councill of Scotland, for suspending the execution of these laws in time of such dearth and scarcity.

That in all human probability victual will be so scarce in Scotland this year that if a propper and speedy remedy be not applyed for preventing exportation, that part of the kingdom will be reduced to the greatest straits and many (especially of the poorer sort) in danger of starving.

May it therefor please the honourable house to take the premises into their serious consideration and to affoord to the petitioners in that part of the kingdom such remedy and releif as to them in their great wisdom shall seem propper. And your petitioners shall ever pray.

Edr., 13th Novebr. 1740, sign'd in name & by appointment of the annual committee of the royal burrows.

16 December 1740.

Sederunt.

Edinbr., George Haliburton, preses; Dysert, George Irving; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Hunter; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Elgin, William Forbes; Fortrose, Mr Willm. Forbes; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Committee's oppinion of the corn bill and the motion to reduce the intrest.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that agreeable to their last appointment he had sign'd their petition to parliament for stopping the exportation of victual, and had sent it up to Patrick Lindesay, Esqr., the representative for Edinburgh, to be laid before the House of Commons, and had also wrote to the several representatives of

EDINBURGH. 16 December 1740.

Committee's oppinion of the corn bill and the motion to reduce the intrest.

the burrows to use their endeavours to promote the bill. That since that time he had received two letters from Mr Lindsay, one acquainting him of a motion made in the House of Commons to have the intrest of money in Scotland reduced to four pr. centum, which he and the most of the other members for Scotland had opposed, and upon a division it was thrown out; the other acquainting that at a meeting of twenty-one members for Scotland it was unanimously agreed that the powers formerly vested in the privy councill should by the bill now proposed be vested in the lords of session, and signifying that these twenty-one members were of oppinion that the prices for allowing importation as stated in the Act 1703 are all too low excepting wheat. Which letters being read in presence of the committee, and they having conversed with several gentlemen and others in the neighbourhood anent the prices of corns, the committee appoint their preses to write to Mr Lindesay that it is their oppinion the prices of corns stated in the act of parliament are not too low but rather some of them too high, and that they ought to be continued at the prices mentioned in that act—2°/₀. That if the powers formerly vested in the privy councill are now to be lodged with the lords of session (whom the committee think are the propperest persons), endeavours ought to be made to have a clause impowering any three of them in the time of vacation to open the ports for importation in case of a dearth, in regaurd it freequently happens that in time of vacation there is a difficulty to get a greater number of the lords met; and the committee are also of oppinion that the opposition made by Mr Lindesay and the other members to the motion for reduction of the intrest was verry seasonable, and a real good service to the country and to the intrest of poor widows and orphans, and therefor they appoint their preses to return Mr Lindesay their hearty thanks for it.

Petn. Mollison, &ca., agt. Provost Doig.

The same day the committee having heard a petition for John Mollison and Thomas Hill, two of the town councillors of Brichen, for themselves and in name of the remanent councillors of the said burgh, complaining of some illegal practises used by Provost Doig and his

EDINBURGH. 16 December 1740.

Petn. Mollison, &ca., agt. Provost Doig

party at the late election, they appoint the sd. bill to be answer'd agt. this day eight days, and appoint Provost Doig to be served wt. a coppy of the bill.

23 December 1740.

Sederunt.

George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, George Cunningham; St Andrews, Willm. Douglas; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Kirkaldie, Hercules Smyth; Dysert, George Irving; Dumbarton, Mr Archd. M'Aulay; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgin, Willm. Forbes; Fortrose, Mr Willm. Forbes; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Act anent Mollison agt. Provt. Doig.

The which day the annual committee having again read the petition formerly presented to them by John Molison and Thomas Hill, two of the town councillors of Brechin, complaining of several illegal proceedings by Provost Doig and his party at the late election of the magistrats of the said burgh, and having also heard the answers this day made thereto by the said Provost Doig, they find that they have no power to issue money without special authority from the convention, and that as in the present case they have no such authority, they declair they will recommend to the next annual convention for their aid the petitioners in caise they shall be found by the propper judges to have been in the right.

The preses appointed to write to Provt. Lindsay anent the corn bill & the charges of it.

The same day the preses laid before the committee two letters which he had received since their last meeting from Patrick Lindesay, Esqr., representative for Edinbr., acquainting him what had been done in the corn bill, and particularly adviseing him that altho it being a publick bill pays no fees yet that it would be attended with considerable expence, which he must either have advanced or otherways that this national concern would have stopt. Which being considered by the committee and they being satisfyed that the forwarding that law would be a benefit to the nation in general as well as to the royal burrows in particular, they appoint their preses to write to Provost Lindesay

thanking him for his advance and trouble in that affair, and doe hereby recommend to the next general convention to repay him all his expences in that matter.

EDINBURGH. 23 December 1740.

9 January 1741.

Edinburgh, George Haliburton, lord provost, preses, & George Cunningham; Montrose, John Coutts; Dumbarton, Archd. M'Aulay; Inverness, John Baillie; Dysert, George Irving; Elgin, William Forbes; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

Sederunt.

The which day the preses presented to the committee a letter which he had received from Patrick Lindesay, member of parliament for Edinb., with the draught of ane act of parliament, impowering the lords of session in Scotland to authorize the importation of corn from Ireland or other fforreign parts in time of dearth, and acquainted the committee that he had shown the said draught to the lord president and some other lords of session, who had desired it might be laid before the dean of faculty, the sollicitor, and Mr Robert Craigie, to be revised by them and amended as they shall see necessary. Which being considered by the committee, and they having heard the draught of the said act read in their presence, they appoint their agent to lay the same before Mr James Graham, dean of faculty, the sollicitor, and Mr Robert Craigie, advocats, and to consult them anent what may be necessary to be added to the said draught, and appoint their preses to transmit the same to Mr Lindesay with what amendments the said lawiers shall make to the said act.

Act appointing the corn bill to be revised by lawiers.

The same day the clerk acquainted the committee that he had wrote to the several trading burrows anent the custom house ffees exacted at their ports, according to the direction of the committee, and had received several letters from them thereanent which he exhibited. The committee remit the consideration thereof to the commissioners for Montrose, Dumbarton, and Inverary.

The custom house ffees sub-committed.

EDINBURGH.
18 February
1741.
Sederunt.

18 February 1741.

Edinburgh, George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Inverness, John Baillie; Dysert, George Irving; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

The which day the preses reported to the committee that according to their appointment he had consulted the dean of faculty, the sollicitor, and Mr Robert Craigie, advocats, anent the corn bill and had transmitted the same with their amendments to Patrick Lindsay, Esqr., member of parliament for Edinburgh, as he was directed, and now he laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr Lindesay with a coppy of the corn bill as it is amended at London and ordered to be ingrossed. Which being read, the committee observed that there is two particular amendments made to the said bill, the first in these words—"That the judges are authorized and required immediatly upon present-"ing such petition to make intimation thereof by transmitting a coppy "of the same to the clerk of the peace within every shirriffdom and "stewartry in Scotland, and assign and appoint a time not exceeding "fifteen days, &ca." And the other clause—"Appointing two or more "persons skill'd in the price of corn, who shall each of them have and "be in possession of a land estate of 400 lit. Scots per annum of valued "rent to give oath anent the prices of corn, &ca." As to the first of which, the committee appoint their preses to write to Mr Lindsay to use his endeavours to get the clause left out altogether, or if that cannot be done, to get ane addition to it in these or the like words (or by causeing publick intimation thereof to be made in the Edinburgh news papers), which method would be as effectual, more expeditious, and attended with less expence; and that in the other clause to get the word (real rent) insert in place of valued rent; and at the same time the committee appoint their preses to return Mr Lindsay their hearty thanks for the great trouble he has had in all this affair, which was done accordingly.

12 March 1741.

EDINBURGH. 12 March 1741. Sederunt.

The Rt. Honble. George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edr., preses; Edinburgh, Robert Purvis & George Cunningham; Air, Mr Andrew Hunter; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Wigtoun, David Baird; Dysert, George Irving; Montrose, John Coutts; Forres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Elgin, Mr Willm. Forbes; Wick, David Monro; Pittenweem, Robert Clelland; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

The which day the preses laid before the committee ae memorial which had come to his hand with respect to a bill depending in parliament, intituled a bill for the encouragment and increase of seamen and the speedier maning of his Majestie's navy. Which being read, the committee were of oppinion that if the said bill should pass into a law it would verry much affect the liberties of the subjects in general, and the tradeing burrows in particular, as it authorizes and impowers press gangs to seize the persons of sailors and seafareing men at all times whether by night or day, and to break open and enter into all such houses in the night time where saillors or seafareing men are suspected to be, and as it inflicts certain mulcts and penaltys upon any person who shall harbour and intertain such saillors or seafareing men within their houses; and therefor the committee remit to the burghs of Coupar, Forress, and Inverary as a sub-committee to prepare the draught of a petition, both to the honble. house of commons and to the right honourable the lords spiritual and temporal in parliament assembled, against the passing of the said bill into a law; and in regaurd that several of the royal burrows lye at a considerable distance and are not apprised of the said depending bill, therefor the committee appoint their preses to send a coppy of the said memorial by express to the burghs of Pearth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Air, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Dumferling, Arbroth, and Culross, and also to transmit coppys thereof in the course of the post to the royal burrows, that they may either petition

EDINBURGH. 12 March 1741.

or write to their representatives against the said bill if they shall see cause.

13 March 1741.

Sederunt.

George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Robert Purvis & James Ker; Air, Andrew Huntar; Montrose, John Coutts; Wigtoun, David Baird; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Dysert, George Irving; Pittenweem, Robert Clelland; Forres, Mr Hugh Forbes; Elgin, William Forbes; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar.

The which day the sub-committee presented the draught of a petition to both the houses of parliament against the bill depending for authorizing the impressing of sailors and seafareing men into his Majestie's navy with the draught of a letter to be wrote to the several representatives of the burrows in parliament to give their assistance in opposing the said bill. Which petition & letter being read, the committee approve of the said petition and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name, and to transmit coppys thereof by express to Patrick Lindsay, Esqr., representative in parliament for the burgh of Edinburgh, and to Mr William Hamilton, Esqr., councillor at law and agent for the royal burrows at London, to be by them or either of them presented to the honble. house of commons, and in case the bill should pass in that house to present the other petition to the right honble. the lords spiritual and temporal in parliament assembled; and they appoint their preses to write to the representatives of the burrows in parliament to assist in opposing the said act according to the draught of the said missive prepared by the sub-committee, and of which petition and missive the tenor follows:—

Unto the Honble. the Commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, the petition of the annual committee of the royal burroughs of Scotland,

Humbly sheweth—

That as it is the honour and interest of the nation in general to promote all propper and legal measures for recruiting and supplying

EDINBURGH. 13 March 1741.

the royal navy, soe it is the more immediat concern of the tradeing part of the kingdom to contribut all in their power for the prosecution of a war undertaken for the honour of the crown and the protection of trade.

That the royal burrows of Scotland, beside the taxes imposed on the several branches of trade, pay and releive the landed intrest of a verry considerable part of the annual cess or land tax of this part of the United Kingdom, and as they are subjected to such burdens, they conceive they are in duty bound to have a watchfull eye over every measure that may tend to disturb the peace, queit, and security of the subject, interrupt trade and commerce, or destroy the liberty and freedom of elections, without all which trade would languish and sink and the publick revenue suffer.

That your petitioners are appointed as guardians of the trade and liberties of the royal burrows, their constituents, and as such are laid under ane indispensible duty to represent their just fears least the bill presently under the consideration of the house, intituled a bill for the encouragment and increase of seamen and the speedier maning his Majestie's fleet, should pass into a law.

That the bill, as your petitioners are informed, not only gives a sanction to the impressing of all seamen and sea-fareing men by force and violence, but furder appoints, ordains, and requires all magistrats of burrows, justices of the peace, constables, &ca., upon their suspicion, or the suspicion of the officers of the navy, that any seaman or sea-fareing man is concealled within any house, to break open and search the said house thorowly by night or by day, and any who harbour any seamen to be liable to fines and mulcts; and that all heritors and ffree-holders possest of fourty shillings sterling per annum are exeemed from this service, tho otherways seamen or seafareing men, ane exemption applicable to the voters in England but noways applicable to the voters in Scotland.

This your petitioners conceive to be a direct and manifest incroachment upon and violation of the liberty of the subject, besides a plain attempt to destroy the freedom of elections and to raise an unnatural

EDINBURGH. 13 March 1741.

and unnecessary difference & distinction betwixt the landed and trading intrests, in so far as that the brave and the gallant part of the subjects, the seamen, are thereby contrary to law reduced to slavery and thraldom, and in a manner interdicted from the reception and hospitality of the rest of their fellow subjects, chased and hunted from off the face of the earth, all persons being prohibited to harbour or intertain them within their houses under pains and penaltys, which your petitioners think too severe treatment of such a body of men to whom the nation ows in some measure its trade and wealth.

That the severity of this act is not only extended to actual mariners but includes sea-fareing men, under which general denomination all traders may be comprehended who may have happened to accompany their goods to forreign mercats, fishers, publick ferrymen may be seiz'd and imprisoned, by which means all trade and communication in the country must necessarly stop.

That the constituent members of several royal burrows situated on the coast are composed of traders and seafareing men, by which means these burrows may be robbed of councillors and magistrats, or they forced to redeem their persons from captivity by giveing their votes as they shall be directed, to the extinction of the freedom of elections in the maritim burrows.

That the exemption of the electors in county's, and the pointing out and exposing the electors in citys & towns to summary seizure of their persons for the sea service, is creating an odious distinction betwixt the landed and tradeing intrests of the nation, and puting a kind of peculiar stigma upon the tradeing part of the subjects.

That the liberty of breaking up, entering, and searching of houses, under suspicion of concealing seamen or seafareing men, is exposeing the queit and security of the leidges, their persons, familys, and goods to the discretion and arbitrary behaviour of every petty constable, upon the suggestion or suspicion of each officer of the navy, which is subjecting the subjects to the thraldom of the worst and most detested part of the excise scheme.

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That this evident loss must attend such violent measures against seamen and seafareing men: their natural desire of liberty will force them to leave and abandon their native country and remove themselves to forreign countrys, as also discourage and deter others from following and breeding their children to the trade and occupation of a mariner, and by this method diminish instead of increasing the number of seamen, to the hurt of the navy and ruine of trade.

Upon the whole your petitioners are justly apprehensive of the abuse may be made of such powers at the approaching election of a new parliament.

May it therefor please the honble. house to take the premisses under their serious consideration and doe therein as to their great wisdoms shall seem meet, or in case of difficulty to allow your petitioners to be heard by their councill against passing this bill into a law. And your petitioners shall ever pray.

Edinbr., 13th March, 1741, sign'd in presence & by appointment of the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland.

Sic subscribitur,
Geo. Haliburton, preses.

Follows the letter to the members of parliament.

Sir,—

The annual committee of the royal burrows being informed that there is a bill depending in parliament for the more effectual levying of saillors to man his Majestie's navy, have judged it their duty to petition the parliament against its passing into a law, as it appears to them to be destructive of the liberty of the subject in general, most hurtfull to the tradeing part of the nation, and calculated to strip several burrows whose councills are composed of sea-fareing men of their right of election, and they recommended to me to write to yow in their name to beg your assistance in opposeing the passing of the said bill into a law, which I intreat yow will doe, and am, sir, your most humble servant,

Edinbr., 13th March 1741. Geo. Haliburton, preses.

EDINBURGH.
18 April 1741.
Sederunt.

18 April 1741.

George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preses; Edinbr., Robt. Purvis; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Forress, Mr Hugh Forbes; Wick, Mr David Monro.

Mr Wm. Hamilton's proceedings approven.

The which day the preses laid before the committee the several letters he had received from Patrick Lindsay, Esqr., representative for Edinbr., concerning the bill brought into parliament for the more effectual maning his Majestie's navy; as also three letters which he had received from Mr William Hamilton, agent at London, giveing ane account of his proceedings in the said matter. All which being read, the committee appoint their preses to acquaint Mr Hamilton that they approve of his conduct in the said matter.

The corn act to be sent to the R. burrows.

The same day the preses having acquainted the committee that the act of parliament allowing the importation of victual into Scotland in time of dearth was now come down to Edinbr., the committee appoint four hundred coppys thereof to be printed and sent by their clerks to the royal burrows, that they may know how to apply to have their ports open'd for importation of corn now in the time of great scarcity.

6 July 1741.

Sederunt.

Edinbr., George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Dumbarton, Archd. M'Aulay; Dysert, George Irving; Air, Andrew Huntar; Montrose, John Coutts.

The which day the committee having taken into their consideration ane accott. due to Robert Harper for drawing the bill for licenceing importation of corn into Scotland, and other incidents in that affair, pay'd by Patrick Lindsay, Esqr., late representative for Edinbr., amounting to twenty-two pounds thirteen shillings sterl., they recommend to the next general convention to appoint their agent to repay the said sum to the said Patrick Lindsay.

General Convention *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 7 July 1741.

7 July 1741.

Edinburgh, Thomas Crokat & Mr Alexr. Nisbet; Pearth, James Crie; Dundee, Alexr. Robertson; Aberdeen, Alexander Robertson; Stirling, Mr James Erskin; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, Willm. Douglas; Glasgow, Andrew Buchannan; Air, James Hunter; Hadingtoun, Mr Charles Cockburn; Dysert, Lord St Clair; Kirkaldie, Robert Whyte; Montrose, David Skinner; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, Robert Bell; Inverness, Lord President of the Session; Bruntisland, Mr James Oswald; Innerkeithing, John Cant; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Irving, Mr James Boyle; Jedburgh, Joseph Thomson; Kirkudbright, Mr Thomas Kilpatrick; Wigtoun, John M'Naught; Pittenweem, James Cook; Dumferling, Lord Charles Hay; Anstruther Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Thomas Laury; Dumbarton, Mr George Smollet; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, Capt. James Fall; Lanerk, Thomas Younge; Aberbrothock, John Wallace; Elgin, Willm. Forbes; Peebles, John Ramage; Craill, Robert Clelland; Tain, Charles Ross; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Banf, James Innes; Whithorn, John Clelland; Forfar, Andrew Hunter; Nairn, Hugh Ross; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; Northberwick, Alexr. Lauder; Lauder, George Romanus; Kilrenny, Robert Weddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, Charles Crighton; New Gallaway, John M'Courtie; Dingwall, Kenneth Bayne; Dornock, Hugh M'Donald; Queensferry, Archd. Stewart; Fortrose, Lord Fortrose; Kintore, Mr Robt. Bruce; Inverary, Ronald Dunsmore; Wick, Robert Winchester; Stranraer, Mr Hugh Murray; Campbeltoun, Archd. Campbell; (seven burrows *blank*). Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention doe unanimously elect George Haliburton, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses during the sitting of this present convention, who being present gave his oath *de fideli*, and qualifyed himself to his Majesty King George the Preses chosen.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1741.

Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Irving, Pittenweem, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Craill, Inverurie, Inverary, Inverbervie, and Stranraer as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this present convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the commissions for the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, Coupar, Glasgow, Air, Hadington, Dumfreise, Irving, Ranfrew, and Dumbar, as also they sustain the commissions for the burghs of Inverness, Craill, and Kirkaldie as to the prinle. commissioners; but in regaurd some objections were made against the qualifications of their assessors, and also against the commissions for the burghs of Stirling, Pittenweem, Elgin, Inverary, Inverbervie, Montrose, Bruntisland, Dysert, Stranraer, Forres, and Inverurie, the convention remit these commissions also to the consideration of the committee abovenamed; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualify'd did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, & subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Thomas Crokat and Mr Alexander Nisbet, commissioners, and Dougal Ged, assessor, for the burgh of Edinburgh; Andrew Buchannan, commr. for Glasgow; Archibald Angus, assessor for Linlithgow; Robt. Whyte, commr. for Kirkaldie; Mr James Boyle, commr. for Irving; Thomas Younge, for Lanerk; James Brown, assessor for Pearth; and James Cook, commissioner for Pittenweem.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

3. The convention having heard the report of the committee appointed to revise the commissions, they approve of the commissions for the burghs of Dysert, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing,

Kinghorn, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Peebles, Forfar, Rutherglen, North Berwick, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Dornock, Queensferry, Kintore, and Inverary as to both principals and assessors; as also they sustain the commissions for the burghs of Kirkaldie, Montrose, Pittenweem, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Craill, Banf, Whithorn, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Wick, and Campbeltoun as to the prinle. commissioners mentioned in the said commissions, but not as to their assessors whose qualifications bear that they are proprietars of lands in their said burghs to the value of three thousand merks, untill they depone upon the verity of the said attestation; as also they sustain the commissions for the burghs of Stirling, St Andrews, Dumferling, Elgin, Tain, Culross, Rothesay, Nairn, Cullen, Dingwall, Fortrose, Inverbervie, and Stranraer, they also deponeing upon the verity of the qualifications set forth in their said commissions; and it being moved in convention that no commissioner or assessor whose commission only bears that he is a proprietor of lands within his burgh to the value of three thousand merks should sit in convention unless he depone on the verity of his said qualification, the convention agreed to the same; and accordingly the commissioners for the burghs of Stirling, Dysert, Dumferling, Dumbarton, Elgin, Nairn, Fortrose, and Stranraer, and the assessors for the burghs of St Andrews, Montrose, Kirkaldie, Inverness, and Nairn, compearing and being sworn on the verity of the said attestation, deponed affirmative thereto, whereupon the convention approved of their commissions as to the haill members so deponeing; but in regaurd the commissioner for Rothesay declined to depone, and that several others were absent, the convention reject the commissions as to them at least untill they appear and depone; and also they reject the commission for the burgh of Inverury, and the commissions as to the assessors for the burghs of Cullen and Nairn as wanting qualifications altogether. And such of the members whose commissions were sustain'd & who had not qualify'd themselves formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance, and subscriveing the same with the assurance,

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1741. Commissions approven.

Members qualify'd.

Commissions rejected.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1741.

vizt. :—John M'Night, commr. for Wigtoun ; John Clelland, commissioner for Whithorn ; Kenneth M'Kenzie, for Fortrose ; Jo. Sinclair, for Dysert ; Robert Ross. for Tain ; James Greensheills ; Joseph Thomson, for Jedburgh ; David Aitkenhead, for Anstruther Wester ; Hugh M'Donald, for Dornock ; Lord Charles Hay, for Dumfermling ; Robert Winchester, for Week ; and Thomas Kirkpatrick, for Kirkudbright.

Proceedings of the trustees presented.

4. The same day there was presented to the convention ane coppy of the proceedings of the commissioners and trustees for improvemt. of fisherys and manufactures, as also ane accott. of the recepts and payts. of Mr Allan Whytefoord for the year ending at Cristmas last, both which were appointed to lye upon the table for the perusal of the members.

The missive committed.

5. The same day the convention having heard the present annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the committee on the commissions, to whom they add the burghs of St Andrews, Dumbarton, Banf, Fortrose, Anstruther Wester, Kinghorn, Dumferling, Peebles, Jedburgh, Culross, Kilrenny, and Anstruther Easter, and the convention declair that every member of the convention who shall attend the said committee shall be allowed to vote therein.

8 July 1741.

Articles of the missive continued or alter'd.

6. The which day the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive reported that they having considered the same were of oppinion that the first article thereof anent the platform should be altered in these words, that each burgh send up their commissioner sufficiently instructed for keeping the convention, with their commissions subscrived by the magistrats themselves and the clerk of the burgh in name of their council, and the seall of their burgh affixed yrto or by way of extract, and the subscription of their clerk and seall of cause testifying them to be men fearing God, of the true protestant religion publickly professed and authorized by the laws of this kingdom without suspicion in the contrair, burgeses and (where there is a gildry) gild-brethern expert in the common affairs of the burrows, merchants, or

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1741.

Articles of the missive continued or alter'd.

tradesmen being inhabitants within the said burgh bearing a part of the publick burdens, standing on the tax roll of the burgh and who can tyne and win in all their affairs; or if the person elected commissioner or assessor be not a merchant, trafficker, or tradesman as above mentioned and constant residenter, that it shall not be a sufficient qualification that his commission testify him to be a proprietor of lands to the value of three thousand merks lying within the royalty or having within the royalty a superiority of that value, except he upon his solemn oath depone upon the verity of the said attestation. That the second article anent the payment of missive dues, the third anent the stoping of gifts or signatures in excheqr., the fourth anent the misapplying of mortifications within burgh, the fifth anent the selling of salt otherways than by weight, should be continued with this addition, that the magistrats of each royal burrow doe prosecut the contraveeners, and also recommend to the several royal burrows to put the laws in execution anent the selling of flower and meal of all kinds by weight, declairing that in case they shall be brought to any charges before the superior courts thereby the convention will support them therein, and reimburse them of their said charges; the sixth anent the selling of fresh herrings by met and not by tale should be continued with this alteration, that the penalty be not above twenty shillings sterling and not under half a crown, with the clause of support as above by the burrows in case of prosecution; the seventh anent the residence of burgeses within burgh, the eighth anent the abuse of the laws and regulations in relation to trade, the ninth anent the right packing and cureing of herrings, the tenth anent the uniformity to be observed in the standart of the reel of worsted yearn, the eleventh anent the measure to be observed in the retaill of lintseed, the twelveth anent the right making and measuring of linnen cloath, the thirteenth anent the frauds committed in cureing and packing of salmond, the fourteenth anent the commissioners to the assembly, the fifteenth anent the staple port, the sixteenth for the viset appointed for the burgh of Dornock, should be all continued; and the seventeenth anent the tax roll should be referred to

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1741.

the convention. Which report being considered by the convention they approve of the same.

Committee to draw a petition to the lords of the admirality.

7. The convention remit to the burghs of Glasgow and Dumbar to draw up a petition to the lords commissioners of the admiralty in order to obtain a protection for ffishers upon our coasts from being pressed into the fleet, the season of fishing now approaching.

Annl. committee's proceedings approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve of the same.

Agent's accotts. presented.

9. The same day the agent presented his accompts, which were ordered to lye upon the table to be perused by the members of the convention.

Committee on ye corn act.

10. The same day the convention remit to the burghs of Edinbr., Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, St Andrews, Dumfreise, Inverness, Dumbar, Banf, Elgin, and Stranraer to consider what amendments are necessary to be made in the corn act for the benefit of the country, and report.

Agent to pay Wick £10 sterl., and ye annl. committee to consider yr. petition.

11. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the magistrats of the burgh of Wick complaining upon several incroachments made upon them by Mr Francis Sinclair, and also of several other incroachments made on their commonty by Sr. William Dumbar of Hemprigs, they remit to the annual committee to receive what evidence can be adduced therein, with power to them to appoint their agent to concurr & assist them, and to appoint their agent to expend a sum not exceeding ten pound sterling therein if they shall see cause, and in the meantime appoint their agent to pay to the said burgh the ten pounds sterling mentioned in the petition.

9 July 1741.

The tax roll continued for two years untill July 1743.

12. The convention having taken into their consideration the seventeenth article of the missive anent the tax roll, and a motion being made that it was not expedient at this time to alter the tax roll, but that the

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1741.

The tax roll continued for two years untill July 1743.

same ought to be continued for one year, and a fund to answer the difference betwixt what is laid upon the burghs of barrony and regality and the sum of five pound ten shilling laid upon the agent be taken from the arrears owing by the burghs of barrony and regality for the year 1740 and preceedings, and the debt owing by Mr George Smollet so far as the same shall amount to, and furder that the utmost dilligence be done at Lambas next against the said Mr George Smollet for recovery of the said debt owing by him, and that he should not receive the abatement of ffifty pound sterling unless he shall pay the said debt precisely at Lambas next, and likeways that the tax roll for the burghs of barrony and regality should be also continued for one year, and they have timely notise to attend when the burrows shall alter their own tax roll; and the said motion being considered by the convention, and after some reasoning thereupon, the vote was stated continue the tax roll of the royal burrows for one or two years, it carryed to continue the same for two years, and also continue the tax roll of the burghs of barrony and regality as they now stand for two years untill July iajvij & and fourty-three years, and appoint the agent to doe dilligence against Mr George Smollet for payment of the debt due by him at Lambas next, and not give him the discount of ffifty pound sterling formerly allowed by the burrows unless he pay up his said debt both prinle. and intrest at the said term.

Agent to doe dilligence agt. Mr Geo. Smollet.

Petition to the admirality approven.

13. The same day the committee appointed to draw up a petition to the lords of the admiralty for a protection to the fishers upon the coast in this season of fishing presented the draught thereof. Which being read, the convention approve thereof and appoint the preses to sign the same and to send it up to Mr Willm. Hamilton, their agent at London, to be by him presented to the lords of the admiralty.

An explanation of the corn act to be apply'd for.

14. The same day the committee appointed to consider of the amendments propper to be made to the corn act reported that as by the treaty of union the export and import of the United Kingdom is to be upon one footing, as the export of corn from Scotland is on the same regulation as in England, the import should also be put upon the

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1741. An explanation of the corn act to be apply'd for.

same footing, that if the power of leading the proof and ascertaining the price of corn should not be thought propper to be lodg'd with the justices of peace, that the same be vested in the judges of the three courts as by the last act, but that the law anent importing corn to South Britain be extended to North Britain in all other respects, and that it be recommended to the burrow agent and members to get ane explanatory law to the above purpose. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and remit to the annual committee to give directions for obtaining the said explanatory law, and appoint their agent to advance what money may be necessary for promoteing thereof.

Recommendation to Wm. Maitland.

15. The same day the convention having heard a petition from William Maitland craving the convention would recommend to the magistrats of all the royal burrows to give him their assistance in composeing the history of Scotland, and of the several burrows in it, by answering such queries as shall be put to them for that end, they grant the desire of the petition, and appoint the haill burrows to assist him with materials for that work.

Prestonpans' petition remitted to ye annl. committee.

16. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the inhabitants of the town of Prestonpans praying for ane abatement of their high proportion of the tax roll, they delay the consideration thereof untill the tax roll come to be altered.

Agent's accotts. committed.

17. The same day the convention remit the agent's accotts. to the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, St Andrews, Glasgow, and Dumbar, to whom they also remit the accompt of the conservator's ffees at the staple port.

Eodem die post meridiem.

[18. Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited. 19. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited.]

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1741.

Report anent the intrest charg'd in the agent's accotts. & ye conservator's accotts., & the agent to pay ye conservator £24, 8s. 4d.

20. The same day the committee on the agent's accompts and staple port reported that they having considered the accotts. of the conservator's fees uplifted at the staple port, they find that the fees received by the conservator's dept. att Campvere from the first of June iajvij & and fourty to the first of June iajvij & and fourty-one falls short to answer the fifty pound sterling for mentaining the said deput in the sum of twenty-four pounds eight shillings and four pence sterling, and therefor they were of oppinion that the agent be ordered to pay the conservator the forsaid sum of twenty-four pounds eight shillings and four pence sterling, and that over and above the fifty pound sterling establisht to the conservator himself. Which being considered by the convention they appoint the agent to pay the same accordingly.

Thomson's petn.

21. The same day the convention having heard a petition from Alexr. Thomson, writer, wt. ane accott. relative thereto, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accompts.

[22. Annual committee on Thos. Mathie's petn.]

10 July 1741.

Selkirk qualifyed.

23. The which day the assessor for the burgh of Selkirk did qualify himself by taking the oath anent the value of his land holding burgage of the said burgh having been formerly to his Majesty by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance in the same capacity.

[34.* Report anent the agent's accott. & intrest. 35. Agent to pay Alexr. Thomson £9, 7s. sterl.]

Prestonpans' petn. remit to the annl. committee.

36. The same day the convention having again heard the petition from the inhabitants of Prestonpans craveing ane abatement of the quota payable by them for the communication of trade, they remit the consideration thereof to the annual committee with power to them to discharge quartering if they shall see cause.

* Apparently a clerical error—should be 24.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1741.

Agent to pay Capt. Ferguson £10 sterl.

37. The same day the convention appoint their agent to pay to Capt. John Ferguson ten pound sterling in regaurd of his circumstances, declairing that this shall be no preparative in time comeing.

Passage boats to be protected.

38. The same day the convention remit to the annual committee to consider what will be the most effectual method to make the passes granted to the saillors in the passage boats in the ffirth of Forth effectual and to do therein as they shall see cause.

Act anent petns.

39. The same day the convention discharge their clerks from taking in any petitions upon the last day of the meeting of the annual convention.

Annual committee appointed.

40. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Irving, Dumfermling, Selkirk, Dunbarton, Ranfrew, Dunbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Peebles, Culross, Annan, Northberwick, Queensferry, Inverary, and Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determin upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, & upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade, declairing that five (Edinbr. being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective

representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming & concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the 26th act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be tomorrow at twelve a cloak, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1741. Annual committee appointed.

[41. Agent to pay sallarys and gratuitys.]

42. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-two years, and appoint the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Convention dissolved.

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

11 July 1741.

George Haliburton, Esq., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Nisbet; Kirkaldie, Robert Whyte; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Inverness, John Baillie; Irving, Mr James Boyle; Lanerk, Mr Greensheills; Innerkeithing, John Cant; Pittenweem, James Cook; Wick, Robt. Winchester; Craill, Robert Clelland; Whithorn, John Clelland; Wigtoun, John M'Night.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1741. Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee elect George Haliburton, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Preses chosen.

The same [day] the committee having heard the several remits of the last general convention to them, and having particularly taken into their

Act anent the saillors imploy'd in the passage boats.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1741.

Act anent the saillors imploy'd in the passage boats.

consideration the thirty eight act of the last convention anent the passage boats in the firth of Forth, and how necessary it is that the saillors imploy'd in them should be protected from being prest by the king's ships station'd in the said Firth, they appoint their preses to write to Mr Hamilton, agent for the royal burrows at London, to use his endeavours to procure from the rt. honble. the lords commissioners of the admirality ane order to the captains of the king's ships stationed in the firth of Forth and their tenders not to impress any of the saillors imploy'd in said passage boats in time coming who have got protections.

30 July 1741.

Sederunt.

George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Mr Alexr. Nisbet & Dougal Ged; St Andrews, Patrick Lindesay; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, William Forbes; Selkirk, Mr Andrew Pringle.

Act anent the protections granted by the admiralty to the saillors in ye fishing trade.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that he had sent up to Mr Willm. Hamilton, their agent at London, the petition from the convention to the lords of the admiralty for a general protection to all fishers and others imployed in the herring fishing dureing the season, and had also wrote him concerning the protections granted to the saillors imployed in the passage boats in the Firth of Forth, according to the direction of the committee in their last meeting; that he had since received two letters from Mr Hamilton with ane order under the hand of three of the lords of the admiralty and their secretary, bearing date the 21st instant, wherein their lordships have granted a general protection to all fishermen and others imployed in the herring fisherys in the Firths of Forth, Clyd, and Murray dureing this herring season. Which being read, the committee appoint the same to be recorded in their books, and ane full coppy thereof to be insert two days in both the Edinbr. news papers, and appoint their preses to send nottorial coppys thereof attested under the hand of the magistrats of Edinburgh and the seall of that city affixt to the burghs of

Glasgow, Irving, Air, Inverary, Rothesay, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun, and to the burghs of Inverness, Nairn, Fortrose, Forres, & Tain, and to Aberbrothock, Dundee, St Andrews, Craill, Kilrenny, Anstruther Easter and Wester, Pittenweem, Northberwick, and Dunbar, that they may show the same to the captains of the king's ships and tenders stationed on their coasts, and appoint their preses also to write to Mr Willm. Hamilton to cause insert a coppy of the said order in the London Gazett, and of which protection the tenor follows:—

EDINBURGH. 30 July 1741. Act anent the protections granted by the admiralty to the saillors in ye fishing trade.

[*Locus sigilli.*] By the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain & Ireland, &ca.

Protection to saillors.

These are to give notice, that no fishermen or others employed in the herring fishery in the Firths of Forth, Clyde, and Murray are to be impressed into his Majestie's service dureing this herring season, but permitted to follow their said employment without any lett, hinderance, or molestation, whereunto all commanders, officers, press masters, & others are to have due regard. Given under our hands and the seal of the office of Admiralty, the 21st July 1741.

Signd. Cha. Wager.
Vere Beauclerk.
Edwd. Thompson.

By command of their lordships,
Signd. Tho. Corbett.

The same day the committee considering that there was ane order made by the last genl. convention on their agent to pay to Captain John Ferguson ten pound sterling, and to pay to Alexander Thomson, writer, nine pound seven shillings sterling in full of ane accompt of writings, and the committee being satisfyed that it was the meaning of the convention that they should be both instantly payed, doe therefor appoint their agent to pay the said sums to them and to state @ rent for them from the time of his advance.

Act to pay Alexr. Thomson £9, 7s., & Capt. Ferguson £10 lit.

2 September 1741.

George Haliburton, Esq., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Nisbet; Linlithgow, Mr Archd. Angus; Air, Mr

Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 2 September 1741.

Andrew Hunter; Inverary, Mr Ronald Dumbar; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Stirling, Mr James Erskin.

Quartering on Preston-pans delay'd.

The which day the committee having taken into their consideration the petition of the inhabitants of Prestonpans, craveing ane abatement of their proportion of the tax roll, and the remit of the last general convention thereanent, they appoint their agent not to quarter on the said town untill the first of November next that the committee consider furder on the sd. petition.

17 February 1742.

Sederunt.

George Haliburton, lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Thomas Crokat & his assr. Baillie John Coutts; Edinbr., Dougal Ged; Elgine, Willm. Forbes.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had this day received from the provost and magistrats of Glasgow, signifying that linnen being the staple for Scotland there had been some years ago ane application to parliament to encourage it; that as the prosperity of our country depends on its receiving some publick legal countenance, they submitted to the consideration of the committee whether this would not be a propper time to bring in a bill to parliament for taking off the drawbacks on fforreign linnen exported to the plantations. Which being read, and the committee having reasoned for some time upon the matters set forth in the said missive, and it being a matter of great importance to this part of the United Kingdom, they appoint the commissioner for Edinbr. and Baillie Coutts as a committee to wait on the lord president of the session and receive his oppinion if it is now a propper time to present such a petition, and also they appoint their preses to send a coppy of the said letter to Mr Archibald Stewart, commissioner for Edinbr., and to desire of him to meet with the representative for Glasgow and with Mr Thomas Whyte, who manadged the last bill that was brought into parliament on this head, and to hear of him the objections that were then offered against the said bill, and to advise if these objections can be answered

and if this be a fitt time for presenting of the said bill, and appoint the preses to write to the provost and magistrats of Glasgow acquainting them what the committee have done in the matter.

EDINBURGH. 17 February 1742.

Edr., 6th March 1742.

The preses having also got a memorial sent from Glasgow anent the linnen trade, the committee appoint the same to be laid before the commissioners for improvt. to have their thoughts on yt. matter.

Memorial.

11 March 1742.

George Haliburton, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh; Edinburgh, Thomas Crokat and Dougall Ged; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dysert, Lord Sinclair; Elgin, William Forbes.

Sederunt.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that according to their last appointment he had laid before the commissioners & trustees for improving manufactures a coppy of the memorial sent by the magistrats of Glasgow concerning the linnen manufacture, and had this day received ane answer from the saids commissioners under the hand of David Flint, their secretary, in which they think well of the propositions therein laid down of exempting from, or drawing back, the duties on all materials used for preparing yarn or bleaching of linnen that is made for sale, and were of oppinion that application should be made for obtaining a law to that effect when the conjuncture appears favourable, but whether this is a propper season for making the said application they submit it to the royal burrows, and as to the other proposition of applying for an act to take away the drawback on the exportation of forreign linnen, they dare not advise the burrows to make any step that way yet for some time untill Scotland and Ireland be better able to supply the demand of the plantations, least their applying for such an act now should prevent their succeeding in the like application when the nation shall be better qualifyed to enjoy the fruits of it. Which letter being read and considered by the committee, they unanimously agree with the oppinion and sentiments of the said trustees, and therefor they

Answer by the trustees to Glasgow's memorial & the committee's proceedings yron.

EDINBURGH. 11 March 1742.

Answer by the trustees to Glasgow's memorial & the committee's proceedings yron.

appoint their preses to send a coppy of the memorial sent by the magistrats of Glasgow, with a coppy of the trustees above answer, to Mr Archibald Stewart, representative for the city of Edinbr., and in the most earnest manner to desire of him to concurr with the representative for Glasgow and our other members in promoteing a bill in parliament for taking off the dutys of soap and potashes used for preparing of yearn or bleeching of linnen that is made for sale, and that at such time or times as they shall judge most propper for making the said application, and appoint the preses also to send a coppy of the trustees said letter to the magistrats of Glasgow and to acquaint them what the committee had done with respect to their memorial, to the end that they also may write to their representative to promote the said bill.

Quartering order'd agt. Prestonpans unless they show reasons to ye contrair.

The same day the committee considering that by their order to the agent of the second of September last they had discharged any quartering on the town of Prestonpans for sometime untill the matters set forth in their petition were furder considered by the committee, but no application having been since made by the inhabitants of the said town, the committee doe therefor remove the stop put to the said quartering, and appoint the agent to proceed in dilligence against the said town for payment of the bygone cess and missive dues unless the inhabitants thereof shall betwixt and the sixteenth instant show to the committee sufficient reasons to the contrair, and appoint the agent to acquaint them of this order, to the end they may attend the committee at their meeting on the said day.

16 March 1742.

Sederunt.

George Haliburton, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Thomas Crokat & Dougall Ged; Linlithgow, Archd. Angus; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, Willm. Forbes; Inverness, John Baillie.

Quartering agt. Prestonpans discharg'd.

The which day the committee having taken into their consideration the petition of the town of Prestonpans and the remit of the last general convention thereanent, and having heard some of the inhabitants anent the matters set forth in the said petition, they discharge the agent

from quartering on the said town for any of their arrears untill Whitsonday next, and incase they shall betwixt and the said term pay up the one half of what is due by said town, they supercede quartering for the other half thereuntill July next, that the petitioners may have ane opportunity to lay their matter before the convention.

EDINBURGH. 16 March 1742.

Quartering agt. Prestonpans discharg'd

The committee having also considered the petition of Thomas Mathie, in Cockeny, they discharge quartering agt. him untill Whitsonday next, and in case he shall then pay up the one half of what is due, they supercede quartering for the other half untill the first of July next.

Quartering ag. Cockeny discharg'd.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

6 July 1742.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1742. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thomas Crokat & Mr Alexr. Nisbet; Pearth, Patrick Crie; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, Alexr. Robertson; Stirling, William Don; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, William Douglas; Glasgow, Andrew Buchannan; Air, James Hunter; Hadingtoun, Mr James Lundie; Dysert, Thomas Spence; Kirkaldie, Robert Whyte; Montrose, James Coutts; Coupar, Alexr. Melvill; Anstr. Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, Duncan Forbes, lord president; Bruntisland, John Haxtoun; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, Robert Fullertown; Jedburgh, Lord Robt. Ker; Kirkudbright, Willm. Gordon; Pittenweem, James Cook; Dumferling, John Wilson; Anstruther Wester, David Aitkinhead; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Dumbarton, James Dunkisen; Ranfrew, Willm. Somervell; Dunbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, Alexr. Auchterlony; Elgin, William Forbes; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Robert Clelland; Tain, John Davidson; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Banf, Alexander Innes: Forfar, Andrew Binny; Forress, William Gordon; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; North Berwick, Alexr. Bruntoun; Lauder, William Romanus; Kilrenny, Robert Weddall; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Sr. James Johnstoun; Sanquhar, John Crightoun; Dingwall, Kenneth

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1742. Sederunt.

Bayne; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Fortrose, Lord Fortrose; Kintore, Robert Bruce; Inverurie, George Scott; Inverary, John M'Lea; Wick, James Budge; Kirkwall, John Wilson; Inverbervie, Thomas Chrystie; Stranraer, James Fergushill; Campbeltoun, Willm. M'Kinlay (seven burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention doe unanimously elect John Coutts, eldest baillie of the city of Edinbr., to be their preses during the sitting of this present convention, who being present gave his oath *de fideli* and qualifyed himself to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance & accepted of his office.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Montrose, Dumfreise, Ranfrew, Elgin, Culross, & Inverary as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this present convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of their commissions, and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—John Forrest, assessor for Edinbr.; John Robertson, for Pearth; James Murison, junior, for Aberdeen; William Don, for Stirling; & John M'Lea, for Inverary.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

3. The convention upon report of the committee to whom the consideration of the commissions was remitted, approve of the whole commissions presented to this convention except the commission for the burgh of Cullen which was delayed, the commissioner not being present, and the commission for New Gallaway which they reject as not being in the terms of the platform; and the commissioners for Inverkeithing,

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1742.

Commissions approven.

Dingwall, and Wick, and the assessors for Irving and Inverness did depone in the terms of the platform as to their being qualifyed by having lands holding burgage to the value of three thousand merks, and such of the members who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same wt. the assurance, vizt.:—Robert Fullerton for Irving, James Lundie for Hadingtoun, John Cunningham for Inverkeithing, John Wilson for Kirkwall, Thomas Chrystie for Bervie, John Alexander for Peebles, John Fergushill for Stranraer, Alexr. Auchterlony for Arbrothock, Willm. M'Kinlay for Campbeltoun, John Wilson for Dumferling, Adam Turnbull for Innerkeithing, Robert Bell for Lanerk, James Budge for Wick, Alexr. Burton for North Berwick, & William Romanis for Lauder.

The annual missive committed.

4. The same day the convention having heard the present annual missive read in their presence, they remit the consideration thereof to the committee for the commissions, to whom they add the burghs of Stirling, Kirkaldie, Hadingtoun, Inverness, Banf, Forress, and Kirkwall

Mr Hugh Forbes elected agent.

5. The same day the convention unanimously elect Mr Hugh Forbes, advocat, to be agent to the royal burrows in place of George Irving, deceast, and allows to him the whole sallarys and casualties thereto belonging; and the said Mr Hugh Forbes compearing and accepting gave his oath *de fideli administratione*, and qualifyed himself by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration and signing the same with the assurance.

Mr Joseph Williamson elected conjunct clerk.

6. The same day the convention being informed of the abilitys and good qualifications of Mr Joseph Williamson, advocat, conjunct prinle. clerk of the city of Edinburgh, for dischargeing the office of general clerk to the burrows in conjunction with Mr George Home, therefor the convention did and hereby doe unanimously elect, nominat, and appoint the said Mr Joseph Williamson to be conjunct general clerk to the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland, and did and hereby doe grant to him the fees, sallarys, and emoluments belonging

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1742.

Mr Joseph Williamson elected conjunct clerk.

to the said office, with power to him to exerce the same as fully and freely in every respect as any of his predecessors in the said office could or might have done, or which to the office of general clerk to the royal burrows of Scotland is by law known to appertain; whereupon compeared the said Mr Joseph Williamson, accepted of his said office, gave his oath *de fideli administratione*, and qualifyed himself by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance to his Majesty King George the Second.

James Nasmyth & George Lindsay elected deputy clerks.

7. The same day the convention having had under their consideration a petition from James Nasmyth, their deput clerk, praying that a fitt person might be conjoined with him in the said office, and the convention being informed of the abilities and good qualifications of George Lindsay, conjunct deput clerk of Edinbr., for dischargeing the said office, therefor they doe unanimously elect, nominat, and appoint the saids James Nasmyth and George Lindsay and longest liver of them two to be deputy clerks to the royal burrows of Scotland, and did and hereby doe grant power to ym. or either of them to exerce the same as fully and freely in every respect as any of their predecessors could or might have done, or which to the office of deputy clerkship to the royal burrows of Scotland by law or custom does appertain, giveing and hereby granting to them the fees, sallarys, and emoluments belonging to the said office; whereupon compeared the said James Nasmyth and George Lindsay, accepted their said office, gave their oaths *de fideli administratione*, and swore the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and sign'd the same with the assurance to his Majesty King George the Second.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard the whole proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, doe approve of the same.

Proceedings of the trustees presented.

9. The same day there was presented in convention the report made to his Majesty from the commissioners and trustees, ending at Christmas iajvij & fourty-one, as also the payments on the ffisherys and manufactures, and the same were ordered to lye upon the table.

10. The same day Archibald Blair produced in convention a state of George Irving, agent, his accotts., and they remit the consideration thereof to the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Kirkaldie, and Dumfreise.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1742.

George Irving's accotts. presented.

7 July 1742.

11. The same day the convention having considered the report of the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive, vizt. :— that the following addition should be made to the first article of the missive anent the platform of commissions to the general convention, that the same should be continued ane article of the missive as follows: —That each burgh send up their commissioner sufficiently instructed for keeping the convention, with their commissions subscrived by the magistrats themselves and the clerk of the burgh in name of the councill, and the seall of the burgh affixt thereto or by way of extract, and the subscription of their clerk and seall of cause testifying them to be men fearing God, of the true protestant religion publickly professed and authorized by the laws of this kingdom without suspicion in the contrairy, burgeses and (where there is gildrie) gildbrethern expert in the common affairs of the burrows, merchants, or tradesmen being inhabitants within the said burgh bearing a part of the publick burdens, standing on the tax roll of the burgh, and who can tine and win in all their affairs, the truth of this qualification to be attested upon oath by one of the present magistrats or two of the councillors of the said burgh, they not being either commissioner or assessor in the said commission, and the said oath is hereby appointed to be subjoin'd to the several respective commissions; or if the person elected commissioner or assessor be not a merchant, trafficker, or tradesman as abovementioned and constant residenter, that it shall not be a sufficient qualification that his commission testifys him to be a proprietor of lands to the value of three thousand merks lying within the royalty or having within the royalty a superiority of that value, except he upon his solemn oath depone upon

Heads of the annual missive continued.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1742.

Heads of the annual missive continued.

the verity of the said attestation and that he does not hold the said lands in trust any manner of way, and that he shall not be admitted a member of the said convention untill he depone accordingly. That the second article anent the payment of the missive dues should be continued, and the convention should appoint a committee to consider what can be saved upon the several articles contain'd in the establishment, as also that the convention should continue the whole other articles of this present missive except the last article anent the viset appointed for the burgh of Dornock. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve of the same.

Committee to consider the establishment.

12. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Lithgow, Glasgow, Kirkaldie, Dumfreise, and Elgin to consider what alterations can be made upon the articles contain'd in the establishment, and report.

Report on George Irving, his accott. on unfree trade.

13. The same day the committee appointed to audit the accompt given in for George Irving, their late agent, as to his intromissions with the cess and missive dues of the burghs of barrony and regality since July iajvij & and fourty-one years, reported that they having considered his said accompt and the instructions thereof, fand that his charge inclusive of eight hundred ninety-four pound eighteen shilling six pennies ten twelveths & $\frac{2}{3}$d Scots of arrears due by the said burghs of barrony at July iajvij & and fourty, and of three thousand one hundred sixty-one pound seven shilling ten pennies Scots contain'd in Mr George Smollet's bond, amounts to six thousand seven hundred and eighty pound fifteen shilling four pennies $1\frac{1}{3}$ Scots, and his discharge inclusive of one thousand four hundred sixty-nine pound nineteen shilling seven pennies five twelveths $\frac{1}{3}$d Scots of arrears due by the said burghs of barrony at July iajvij & and fourty-one, and the forsaid sum of three thousand one hundred sixty-one pound seven shilling ten pennies contain'd in Mr George Smollet's bond yet resting, amounts to seven thousand four hundred thirty-five pound fifteen shilling ten pennies & five $\frac{1}{2}$ twelveths of

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1742.

Ballance due to George Irving, late agent, of £655, 6s. $3\frac{2}{3}$d. Scots.

a' penny Scots, whereby the discharge exceeds the charge in the sum of six hundred fifty-five pound six shilling $3\frac{2}{3}$rd Scots money as a ballance due to the said George Irving, late agent, and which ballance the committee were of oppinion that Mr Hugh Forbes, their now agent, should be directed to pay to his representative; and the committee were furder of oppinion that Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, should not only charge himself with the forsaid arrears due by the burghs of barrony and regality at July iajvij & and fourty-one and with the prinle. sum and intrest in Mr George Smollet's bond, but that he should be directed to use all manner of dilligence for recovery of the said sums, and particularly that he should use dilligence agt. Mr George Smollet by caption and incarseration untill actual payment is made of his said bond or sufficient security be given that the same shall be pay'd before meeting of the convention in July iajvij & and fourty-three years; the instructions of the said accompt being seall'd by the preses and left in the clerk's hands. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint their agent to charge himself wt. the forsaid sums and doe dilligence for recovery thereof as directed by the report, and appoints the whole papers belonging to the royal burrows in the hands of the representatives of their said late agent to be deliver'd up to the present agent before he pay the ballance due to them. Follows accotts.

Agent to doe dilligence agt. Mr Geo. Smollet.

. . . . . .

Geo. Irving's accott.

Act anent Sanquhar to be recorded.

14. The same day the convention having heard an act of the town council of Sanquhar anent the purchas of some lands and heritages within the said burgh, they ratify and approve of the said act and appoints the same to be recorded in the burrow books after dissolving this present annual convention.

Annual committee to consider a motion anent the smaller burghs.

15. The same day a motion being made that the smaller burrows should be indulged in the liberty of electing as commissioners to represent them in the convention actual tradeing merchants from any other tradeing town in Scotland, the convention remitt to their annual committee the consideration of the above motion and appoint their

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1742.

Annual committee to consider a motion anent the smaller burghs.

sentiments upon it to be transmitted to the several burrows in due time, that each burrow may have ane opportunity of sending up their commissioners and assessors with propper instructions upon the said motion to the next convention.

Annual committee to consider a petition for Murdoch M'Kenzie.

16. The same day there was laid before the convention a petition in behalf of Murdoch M'Kenzie referring to certain proposals, wherein the petitioner proposes to make a more exact cart of the islands of Orkney and coasts thereof than has hitherto been done, and having likeways presented a draught of one or two of the islands as a specimen how the work was to be executed, the petitioner prayed for the recommendation and other assistance of the burrows. The convention having considered what is above set forth, they remit to the annuall committee to consider the said petition and proposalls, with power to them to recommend the work to the publick upon their geting sufficient attestations of Mr M'Kenzie's abilitys; and furder they appoint the committee to transmit to the several burrows their oppinion what other encouragment should be given to Mr M'Kenzie in order that each burrow may send up their commissioner and assessor with propper instructions to the next convention.

Prestonpans' petition remit to the annl. committee.

17. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the town of Prestonpans, they remit the same to their annual committee to examine the truth of the facts therein contain'd and to make their report against the next convention, and in the meantime the convention agree to superceed all dilligence against the said town.

Petition for the trades in Innerkeithing remit to a committee.

18. The same day the convention having heard a petition of the deacons of the hammermen, weavers, baxters, tayleors, and shoemakers, in name of the whole of the said five incorporations of the burgh of Innerkeithing, praying that the convention would approve of two acts of council recited in the petition allowing the deacons of the forsaid five incorporations to be received into the councill yearly as deacons in terms of any of the setts of the towns of Stirling, Dumferling, Culross, or Queensferry, the convention remit the said petition to the

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1742.

commissioners for Pearth, Coupar, Annan, Queensferry, Linlithgow, Dumferling, and St Andrews to meet with the petitioners and others concern'd at three a cloak this afternoon and make their report to the following meeting of the convention.

Petition for the trades in Innerkeithing remit to a committee.

19. The same day the agent, Mr Hugh Forbes, presented his accompt of missive dues, which the convention remit to the committee formerly appointed to consider of the sallarys and others on the establishment, to whom also they remit the accompt of the conservator's fees this day presented by him.

Mr Hugh Forbes, his accompt of missive dues remited.

20. The same day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the burrows, gave in ane assignation subscrived by him of this date to the prinle. sum of fifty pounds sterling and @ rents due thereon, being part of the sum of one thousand five hundred and fourty-eight pounds seven shilling sex pennies Scots money and intrests yrof. contain'd in a bond granted to him by George Earle of Cromarty, Mr Charles Gordon, advocat, and John Baillie, writer to the signet, of the date the twenty-ninth day of July and seventh day of November iajvij & and fourty years, and which sum had been recover'd from them in a prosecution to which the burrows had advanced the said sum of fifty pound sterl., and therefor the convention appoint the agent to charge himself with the said sum in his next accotts., the registrat bond, horning thereon, and above assignation being left in the clerk's hands.

Bond by George Earle of Cromarty and others assign'd by Mr Hugh Forbes to the royal burrows.

£50 sterl. to be charg'd on the agent.

. . . . . .

Report on Mr Hugh Forbes his accompt of missive dues.

21. The same day the committee on the agent's accotts. & staple port reported that they, having considered the accompt of the conservator's dues uplifted at Camphire from the first of June iajvij & and fourty-one to the first of June last, find the same amounts only to twenty-six pounds thirteen shillings one and a half penny sterl., whereby they come short in answering the fifty pounds sterling allowed for the conservator's deput in the sum of twenty-three pounds six shillings eleven pence half penny sterling, which sum the committee were of

Agent to pay to the conservator £23, 6s. 11½d. sterl.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1742.

Agent to pay to the conservator £23, 6s. 11½d. sterl.

oppinion should be paid to the conservator to make up the said deficiency. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the agent to pay the same accordingly.

The sallarys & others on the establishment remitted to the annual committee.

22. The same day the committee appointed to examine the sallarys & others upon the establishment, reported that they had gone thro' the same, and were of oppinion that the sallarys or allowance following, vizt., David Flint and his servants, the rent of the trustees' office, Allan Whitfoord's sallary, the gratuitys or allowances given to the usher of exchequer, the clerk of the burrow aeque, the keeper of the advocats' bar, the macers of exchequer, the macers of session, the presenter of signatures and his servant, & the two doorkeepers of exchequer should be all referred to the consideration of the annual committee, and they appointed to make a distinct report to the next convention; and as to the articles of sallary and gratuity for writings stated to Archibald Blair as recorder of the acts of the burrows, the committee were of oppinion that in place thereof he or any other person that serves in that office ought to have thirty pound sterling in full of sallary and all writings. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the said sallary to him accordingly, and remit the consideration of the other sallarys or allowances above named to the annual committee in the terms of the report.

Archd. Blair as recorder, his sallary fixt at £30 sterl. yearly in full of sallary and all writings.

Act appointing the five deacons of crafts in Innerkeithing to be admitted councillors yearly, *ex officio*, ratify'd and approven.

23. The same day the committee to whom the petition given in by Andrew Tulloch and other deacons of the incorporations of the town of Innerkeithing was remitted, reported that they having considered the same and also having seen a petition from the dean of gild and ane extract from the gild court books, all craveing that the five deacons of crafts, vizt., hammermen, weavers, baxters, tayleors, and shoemakers, might be admitted councillors of the said burgh of Innerkeithing yearly *ex officio*, they were of oppinion that the convention should ratify and approve of the same under the provisions following, which is in the terms of the dean of gilds and gildry their petition, vizt., that the said deacons shall have no conveener; *Secundo*,

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1742.

that the number of gild councillors should exceed the number of trades councillors; and *Tertio*, that the deacons hereafter to be elected shall be elected conform to the set of the burgh of Culross in all points. Which report being considered by the convention they approve of the report and appoint this act to be recorded with the other sets of the burrows after dissolving of this convention.

Act appointing the five deacons of crafts in Innerkeithing to be admitted councillors yearly, *ex officio*, ratify'd and approven.

24. The same day the convention appoint a new application to be made for a protection to the fishers imployed in the herring fishing and to the saillors in the passage boats, and recommend the same to the annual committee.

Protection to ye herring ffishing to be apply'd for.

8 July 1742.

25. The which day the convention upon a motion that the accompts of the conservater's dues uplifted by his deput at Camphire are not sufficiently comptroll'd, doe appoint that in time comeing he should be oblidged to subjoin to his annual accompt a declaration upon oath that the said accott. contains the full of the said dues uplifted for the preceeding year, and this to be attested by a burgo master at Camphire.

Act anent the conservater's dues at Camphire.

26. The same day there was presented by the assessor for the burgh of Inverness a letter sign'd by the magistrats of the said burgh desireing and impowering him to represent to the convention that the state of the herring fishing was fallen into great decay, and therefor humbly moving that the convention would apply to the honble. the commissioners and trustees for improveing fisherys and manufactures that they might think of some propper expedient for restoring that valuable branch of business. The convention appoint their annual committee to take that matter under their consideration and doe therein as they shall see propper.

Annl. committee to apply to the trustees anent the herring ffishing.

27. The same day the commissioner for the burgh of Craill presented a memorial with ane extract of some acts of councill whereby it was enacted that no baillie or tresaurer should continue in their respective offices more than two years successively, and therefor the convention were humbly intreated to approve of the forsaid acts of the burgh of

Act anent the baillies & treasr. of Craill yr. not continueing in office above two years.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1742.

Act anent the baillies & trears. of Craill yr. not continueing in office above two years.

Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

Craill in order to prevent all contraversies in time coming. Which being considered by the convention they approve of the said acts of councill and appoint them to be observed as a rule in all time comeing, and appoint the said acts to be recorded in the burrow books after dissolving of this convention.

28. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Irving, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Craill, Tain, Culross, Banf, Inverary, Kirkwall, & Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all diffirences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade, declairing that five (Edinbr. being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they

have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on Monday next in the old council house in Edr., at three a cloak afternoon, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the sd. committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1742. Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

[29. Agent to pay sallarys & gratuitys.]

30. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-three years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Convention dissolved.

Act of the town council of Sanquhar anent the entry money of singular successors, appointed to be recorded by the fourteenth act of the last general convention.

. . . . . .

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

12 July 1742.

Edinburgh, Baillie John Coutts, preses, & Mr Alexander Nisbet; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Elgin, William Forbes; Ranfrew, Mr Somervell; Wick, Mr Budge; Craill, Mr Clelland; Irving, Mr Robt. Fullerton; Inverary, Mr Ronald Dumbar.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1742. Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee having heard the several affairs remitted to them by the convention read in their presence, they appoint the committee to meet the last Friday of this moneth at three a cloak in the afternoon, to consider upon the fifteenth act of the convention anent the motion concerning the smaller burrows, their

Committee to meet on the last of this moneth anent the qualifications of members for smal burrows.

Edinburgh. 12 July 1742.

electing actual tradeing merchants from any other tradeing town to represent them in convention, and ordain the officer to intimat to such members as are in town to attend the meeting.

Act anent Prestonpans.

The same day the committee appoint the petitioners for the town of Prestonpans to attend the forsaid meeting, and to bring what evidence they can of the allegations in their petition, and appoint the clerk to intimat the same by a letter to one of the petitioners.

Protection for the herring ffishing to be apply'd for.

The same day the committee recommend to the preses to write to Mr Hamilton, the burrows' agent at London, to apply to the commissioners for executing the office of lord high admiral of England for a protection to the fishers and others imploy'd in the herring fishing in the Firth of Forth and other coasts of Scotland, and for the saillors in passage boats, and as the season of herring ffishing is fast approaching that this be done without loss of time.

Sallarys to be allow'd & others subcommitted.

The same day the committee having considered the twenty-second act of the convention, they are unanimously of oppinion that the sallarys to David Flint and his clerk, the rent of the trustees' office, the sallary paid to Mr Whitfoord's clerk, ought to be continued and pay'd as formerly, and subcommitt to Edinburgh, Irving, and Inverary to consider the other sallarys upon the establishment mentioned in the above act and to report.

15 July 1742.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, preses; Edinbr., Mr Alexander Nisbet; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Elgin, Mr Willm. Forbes; Banf, Alexr. Innes.

Petition for a protection to the saillors & oyrs. in the herring trade approven.

The which day a petition of representation to the lords of the admiralty for a protection to the saillors & others employ'd in the herring fishing being read, the committee appoint their preses to sign the same, and to send it to Mr Willm. Hamilton, the burrows' agent at London, and of which the tenor follows:—

To the Right Honble. the Lords Commissioners appointed for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the petition

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1742.

Petition for a protection to the saillors & oyrs in the herring trade approven.

and representation of the annual committee of the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland,

Sheweth,—

That the season for fishing herrings in the Firth of Forth and other coasts of Scotland is now at hand.

That the said ffishings are carry'd on in open boats by great numbers of fishers, mix'd with land men, who then only goe upon the water.

That from the number of tenders and other vessells employ'd in impressing of men for his Majesties service, these people, as well ffishers as landmen, are intimidate from prosecuting their lawfull employment for fear of being impress'd into the service.

That as these ffishings are verry valuable and of great consequence to this part of the United Kingdom, the convention of the royal burrows to whom the care of the trade of this country doth belong, have thought it propper to appoint us to apply to your lordships, desireing that yow would be pleased to give such orders to all persons having your warrants for impressing sailors that they will not disturb or molest any of the fishers or other persons imploy'd in the said fisherys during the fishing season, otherways that valuable commodity may be intirely lost and many familys intirely ruined.

Edinbr., 15th July 1742, sign'd by order and in presence of the annual committee.

Sic subscribitur,
B. John Coutts, preses.

A letter from the ffacters at London to be sent to the burrows concern'd in the linnen.

The same day the committee having had under their consideration a letter addrest to their preses from several dealers in linnen wtin. the city of London, they appoint a coppy thereof to be laid before the trustees for encouraging of manufactors, and also coppys thereof to be transmitted to the prinle. burrows concern'd in the linnen manufacture, vizt.:—Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, & Dumferling, that they may have their thoughts on that matter.

EDINBURGH.
30 July 1742.
Sederunt.

30 July 1742.

John Coutts, preses; Edinbr., Mr Alexr. Nisbet; Linlithgow, Archibald Angus; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgin, William Forbes; Kirkwall, John Wilson.

Sub-committee appointed to bring in ane overture anent the commissrs. for smal burrows.

The which day the annual committee of the royal burrows subcommitt to the burghs of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Air, Glasgow, Elgin, and Inverary, or any two of them, to consider of the motion anent certain towns nameing commissioners who are merchants in any royal burrow, in order that they may bring in ane overture of what qualifications may be necessary for a commissioner from any royal burrow to the convention to serve for such burrows in time coming, with power to them in the said overture to propose and give their oppinion upon what alterations shall be made upon the first head of the missive with regaurd to the qualifications of commissioners for burrows, to be by them reported to the annual committee betwixt and the day of next.

Sub-committee to go to Prestonpans to enquire into the state of that town.

The same day the committee having considered the petition for the inhabitants of Prestonpans, craveing ane abatement of their proportion of cess in the tax roll, they subcommitt to Edinbr., Kirkwall, and Elgin to goe to the said town of Prestonpans and get what evidence they can from the inhabitants and others in the neighbourhead, of what condition their trade is at present and in what condition it was at the time of their entring into the contract of communication; and that their report may be the more exact, they recommend to them to inspect the council house books that from thence they may see what trade the town has, and appoint the agent or his deput to attend the said committee.

Protection to the saillors & others imploy'd in the herring ffishing to be sent to the burrows.

The same day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr William Hamilton, agent for burrows at London, incloseing a protection from the lords of the admiralty to the saillors and others to be imployed for this season in the herring fishing. Which being read the committee appoint nottorial duplicats thereof under the certificat of the magistrats of Edinbr. to be sent to the burrows concern'd

in the said fishing in the same manner as was done the preceeding year, and also appoint a coppy of the application and of the said protection to the town of Aberdeen, and the same to be insert in the Edinbr. news papers as formerly.

EDINBURGH. 30 July 1742.

The same day the clerk laid before the committee a letter from the provost of Dundee, concerning the different kinds of linnen recommended by the factors at London. Which being read, the committee appoint the same to lye in the clerk's hands untill the other burrows who have been wrote to as to that particular doe also send up their answer.

Letter from Dundee to lye on ye table.

12 August 1742.

Edinbr., Mr Alexr. Nisbet, preses; Linlithgow, Archibald Angus; Air, Mr Andrew Huntar; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Elgin, William Forbes; Inverness, John Baillie.

Sederunt.

The which day Archibald M'Aulay, conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Charles Stewart, his depty at Camphere, with a letter from the commanders of twenty-one Scots ships and four English now lying at Camphere, Middleburg, and Flushen, bound for sundry ports in the north coasts of Britain, seting forth that numbers of privateers with commissions from the King of Spain being now cruizing upon the coasts, and even in the sight of that island, and an English vessell being taken of late and ane other chased into Flushen, the ensurers had thereupon refused to ensure upon their vessells and cargos, and thereby they are oblidged to lay up their vessells in these harbours untill a convoy be obtain'd to protect them in their return home; and this being of great importance to the trade of the nation, the conservator humbly moved that the annual committee would apply to the rt. honble. the commissioners appointed for executing the office of lord high admiral of Great Britain for a convoy to the aforsaid ships. Which being considered by the annual committee and they being sensible how much the trade to and from Zeland must suffer now in the summer season if not timeousiy protected, doe therefor appoint their preses to

A convoy for the ships lying at Camphere to be apply'd for.

EDINBURGH. 12 August 1742.

A convoy for the ships lying at Camphere to be apply'd for.

write to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, desireing him to lay this matter before the lords of the admiralty by a memorial or representation, praying that they would with all possible dispatch send a twenty gun ship to Zeeland to convoy the vessells now lying at that port to the Firth of Forth and to return with such vessells as are then in that Firth to Zeeland, that the trade may be protected now in the propper season of the year; and appoint their preses to send to Mr Hamilton coppys of the shipmasters' petition and of a letter wrote on that occasion by Mr Charles Stewart, deputy conservator to his excellency the Earle of Stair, to the end he may be furnisht with propper matterials for making the above application; and the committee also appoint the preses to send coppys of the said petition and letter to the Rt. Honble. John Cockburn of Ormistoun, one of the lords of the admiralty now in Scotland, and in their name to intreat of him that he would use his intrest with the other lords of the admiralty to obtain the said convoy; as also they recommend to their preses and the conservator to wait on his Majestie's advocat and intreat him to write to the most honble. the Marquis of Tweddall, that his lordship would use his intrest to procure the above convoy; all which was done accordingly.

3 May 1743.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Mr Alexander Nisbet; Linlithgow, Mr Archd. Angus; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Elgin, William Forbes; Kirkwall, John Wilson; Inverary, Ronald Dunbar.

The which day the sub-committee, to whom it was remitted to consider of the qualifications necessary for the commissioners representing small burrows, gave in their report and oppinion thereanent as follows:—

Edr., 30th April 1743.

Report of the sub-committee of the annual committee of burrows to the said annual committee.

Your sub-committee have met in consequence of your appointment and have had under their consideration the remit to yow by them, and

EDINBURGH. 3 May 1743.

are humbly of oppinion that by the platform for commissions establisht by the last convention oaths seem rather to be unnecessarly multiplyed, burrows that have little or no revenue, and lye at a distance, seem to be debarr'd from a seat in the convention, all which, if it shall please the burrows to approve of the platform which wee have prepared and hereto subjoin'd, may not only be prevented, but a prospect is affoorded of annual conventions which will be composed of merchants skill'd in and encouragers of trade.

That each burgh (excepting those after described) send up their commissioner sufficiently instructed for keeping the convention, with their commissions subscrived by the magistrats themselves and the clerk of the burgh in name of the councill, and seall of the burgh affixed thereto or by way of extract, and the subscription of their clerk and seall of cause testifying them to be men fearing God, of the true protestant religion publickly professed and authorized by the laws of this kingdom without suspicion in the contrair, burgeses and (where there is a gildry) gildbrethern expert in the common affairs of the burrows, merchants, or tradesmen being inhabitants within this burgh bearing a part of the publick burdens, and who can tine and win in all their affairs; or if the person elected commissioner or assessor be not a merchant, trafficquer, or tradesman as abovementioned and residenter, that it shall not be a sufficient qualification that his commission testify him to be proprietor of lands to the value of three thousand merks lying within the royalty, or having within the royalty a superiority to that value, unless he upon his solemn oath depone if required upon the verity of such attestation; but if he has already in any former convention deponed to the verity of the same attestation he shall not be oblidged to depone again to the verity thereof, unless some member shall assert that he has reason to beleive that such commissioner or assessor has since his last deponeing divested himself of the said lands or so much thereof that he has not now lands lying within the royalty belonging to him as is worth the said three thousand merks; excepting herefrom such burghs who by reason of their great poverty and decay

EDINBURGH. 3 May 1743.

of trade are not able or who cannot conveniently, because of their great distance from Edinburgh, without a great expence send members having any of the two qualifications abovementioned to the general or particular conventions; which burghs are hereby allowed in time coming to give commissions either to such persons who shall have actually employed at the time the sum of in trade within or in shipping belonging to the burrow from whom they shall be commissioned, or to any actual tradeing merchants resideing in any burgh royal in Scotland who will accept thereof to be their commissioners and assessors; and it shall be deem'd a sufficient qualification (and in this case the other two qualifications first above specifyed are hereby dispensed with) if the commissions bear the person named yrin. to be a person that has the said sum of employ'd as aforsaid, or that he is an actual tradeing merchant resideing in the royal burgh where he then really lives, and that the first of these qualifications be certifyed by the magistrats of the burrow granting the commission, the other not only by the magistrats of the burrow granting the commission, but also by the magistrats of the burrow where the person commissioned actually trades and resides, and the haill commissions to general and particular conventions shall be according to this present platform in time coming, and be inviolably observed by each burgh under the penalty of one thousand merks to be payed by each burgh granting commissions to persons not qualifyed as said is, and one hundred pound Scots to be payed by the accepters if they are not qualifyed in terms above written, and that by and attour casting their commissions and incapacitating the sd. burgh from having any representatives during the sitting of the convention: all which is humbly submitted to the annual committee by

Sign'd. ALEXR. NISBET. (Pr. S.C.)

Which report being considered by the annual committee, they approve thereof and appoint the same to be printed, and coppys thereof transmitted to each burrough along with the missive.

EDINBURGH. 3 May 1743.

The same day the committee again remit to the burghs of Edinbr., Irving, and Inverary, to whom they add Elgin & Inverness as a sub-committee, to consider of the ffees on the establishment remitted by the convention.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the petition of Murdoch M'Kenzie of Kirkwall in Orkney, and his proposalls for navigating the islands of Orkney both remitted to them by the last general convention, and it appearing to them by the testimony of all who are acquainted with the Orkney Islands, and from the many dismal instances of ship wreck that have happened on that coast, that no right draught or chart has yet been made of these islands tho' they lye very much in the way of shiping and have many natural conveniencies for seafaring people, the committee are perswaded that the navigating of the Orkneys in the manner proposed by Mr McEnzie would be a general benefit to the nation as well as to others; they are also assured of his sufficiency for what he undertakes from the testimony of those who are best able to judge of his abilities, and also from the approbation which the specimen published has met with from many who are perfectly well acquainted with those islands, and having no reason to suspect his fidelity, but rather to confide in it, therefor the committee doe hereby recommend the undertaking to the encouragment of all concern'd and the said Murdoch M'Kenzie as a propper person for executing it.

The same day the sub-committee appointed to viset the town of Prestonpans reported that having accordingly visited the said town and inquired into the trade thereof, and in what condition it was in at the time of entering into the contract of communication, and for that end having inspected the custom house books and enquired into the condition of the inhabitants, they find that the said town of Prestonpans was in a pretty flourishing condition at the time of the union and for some years afterwards, it having then had sixteen vessells belonging to the resideing merchants from fifty tuns of burden to three hundred tuns, since which time there has been a gradual declension of the trade of that place. Particularly they observe from the custom house books that there was

EDINBURGH. 3 May 1743.

in the year 1730, nine Norway vessells, three from Sweden, one from Holland, and one from Dantzick unloaded at the said town; that in the year 1732, there was three Norway vessells, two from Holland, five from Sweden, one from Dantzick, one from Spain, and one from the island fishing delivered at the said port; that in the year 1735, there was three Norway vessells, five from Sweden, and two from Dantzick; that in the year 1738, there was five Norway vessells and four from Sweden; in the year 1740, there was only four vessells from Sweden; and in the year 1741, there was only one Norway vessell and one from Sweden; and in the year 1742, there was only one vessell from Sweden deliver'd at the said port, and that not belonging to any of the inhabitants thereof; soe that the trade of the said town has decreased almost to nothing with respect to its export and import, and now only depends upon a smal retaill trade by a few merchants who reside in it; that the houses are much out of repair, and a great many of them are altogether ruinous, and the inhabitants are generally in a low condition; all which is humbly submitted to the consideration of the annual committee, as the report bears. Which being considered by the committee, they refer the same to the consideration of the next general convention.

29 June 1743.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Dougal Ged; Inverness, John Baillie; Linlithgow, Archd. Angus; Air, Andrew Hunter; Banf, Mr Innes; Inverary, Ronald Dumbar; Kirkwall, John Wilson.

The which day the sub-committee appointed to consider the fees or allowances given to the usher of exchequer, the clerk to the burrow aeque, the keeper of the advocats' bar, the macers of exchequer, the macers of session, the presenter of signatures and his servant, and the two door-keepers of exchequer reported that they having considered the same find that the persons to whom they are payable are each of them serviceable in their different offices, not only to the convention but also to the

particular members and the burrows whom they represent, and that as these allowances are but smal and of ane old standing they were therefor of oppinion that they should yet be continued. Which being considered by the annual committee they approve of the report.

EDINBURGH. 29 June 1743.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

5 July 1743.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1743. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn and George Langlands; Pearth, Patrick Crie; Dundie, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, Alexander Aberdeen; Stirling, William Don; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, William Douglas; Glasgow, Laurence Dinwooddie; Air, James Montgomry; Hadingtoun, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, David Keddie; Kirkaldie, James Barclay; Montrose, George Murison; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstr. Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, John Ewart; Inverness, Duncan Forbes, Esqr., lord president; Bruntisland, John Haxtoun; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, John Glasgow; Jedburgh, Lord Robert Ker; Kirkudbright, Robert Carmount; Wigtoun, Alexr. M'Connell; Pittenweem, Pittenweem; Dumferling, John Wilson; Anstr. Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Ranfrew, Willm. Somervell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, Alexr. Ouchterlony; Elgin, John Laing; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Robert Clelland; Tain, Mr John Davidson; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Banf, Alexander Innes; Forfar, Alexr. Binny; Forress, Robert Roy; Ruthglen, William Mure; North Berwick, Alexander Lauder; Cullen, William Dumbar; Lauder, Andrew Thomson; Kilreny, Robert Tweddall; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Sr. James Johnstoun; Sanquhar, Charles Crighton; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Fortrose, Kenneth M'Kenzie; Kintore, Mr Robert Bruce; Inverurie, Spring; Stranraer, James Fergushill; Campbeltoun, Thomas Frazer; (eleven burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1743. Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention doe unanimously elect John Coutts, Esquire, present lord provost of the city of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this present convention, who being present gave his oath *de fideli*, having qualified himself formerly to his Majesty in the same capacity.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Brechin, Irving, Pittenweem, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Culross, Banf, Forfar, Forress, Cullen, and Campbleton as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the said commissions except the commissions to the assessors of Cullen and Campbeltoun, which are noways regular; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance, vizt.:—George Langlands for Edinburgh; Alexr. Aberdeen for Aberdeen; Laurence Dunwiddie for Glasgow; James Strachan, assessor for Aberdeen; William Wauch for Selkirk; Alexander Leith for Pittenweem; Henry Alexr. Gordon, assessor for Banf; Robert Roy for Forress; Andrew Thomson for Lauder; Hugh Granstoun, assessor for Innerkeithing; William Dumbar for Cullen; John Laing for Elgin; Archibald Haggins, assessor for Dumbar; and Thomas Frazer for Campbeltoun.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

3. The convention upon report of the committee to whom the consideration of the commissions was remitted approve of the commissions for the burghs of Hadingtoun, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Jedburgh, Lanerk, Peebles, Aber-

brothock, Rutherglen, Northberwick, Lauder, Annan, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, Queensferry, Fortrose, Kintore, and Stranraer, but rejected the commission for the burgh of Rothesay as not being duely attested, as also the commission for New Gallaway, the same being neither in the terms of the platform nor attested, and delay giving judgment on the commission to the assessor for Inverury till he shall appear in the convention.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1743. Commissions approven.

4. The same day the convention having heard the commissions for the burghs of Dumferling and Inverary, they approve of the commission for Dumferling and delay the consideration of the commission for Inverary untill the commissioner appear in the convention; and such of the members and their assessors for the burghs whose commissions are sustain'd and who were not qualifyed formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt. :— Alexander M'Connel for Wigtoun, Robert Carmont for Kirkudbright, Willm. Chrystie for Stirling, Kenneth M'Kenzie for Fortrose, and William Muir for Rutherglen.

Commissions approven.

5. The same day the convention having heard the present annual missive read in their presence, they remit the consideration thereof to the committee on the commissions formerly named, to whom they add the burghs of Lochmabin and Lanerk.

Annual missive referr'd to a committee.

6. The same day the convention being informed of the abilitys & good qualifications of Mr Willm. Forbes, conjunct prinle. clerk of the city of Edinburgh, for dischargeing the office of general clerk to the burrows in conjunction with Mr Joseph Williamson, advocat, therefor the convention did and hereby doe unanimously elect, nominat, and appoint the said Mr Willm. Forbes to be conjunct general clerk to the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland, and did and hereby doe grant to him the fees, sallarys, and emoluments belonging to sd. office, with power to him to exerce the same as fully and freely in every respect as any of his predecessors in the said office could or might have done, or which to the office of general clerk to the royal burrows is by

Mr William Forbes elected conjunct clerk to the royal burrows.

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Mr William Forbes elected conjunct clerk to the royal burrows.

law known to pertain: whereupon compeared the said Mr William Forbes and accepted of his said office, gave his oath *de fideli administratione*, and qualify'd himself by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance to his Majesty King George the Second.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

7. The same day the convention having heard the whole proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence they approve thereof, reserveing to the committee on the present missive the consideration of the report anent the platform, as also reserving to the committee on the establishment & the consideration of the fees mentioned in the annual committee's report, of date the twenty-ninth day of June last.

Trustees' report & the receiver's payments presented.

8. The same day there was presented to the convention the report made to his Majesty at Christmas last by the commissioners and trustees for improving manufactures, and an accott. of the payments made by the general receiver in consequence of the trustees' appointments in the year 1742, which the convention appoint to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Agent's accotts. presented.

9. The same day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the royal burrows, presented his accott. of unfree trade, as also his accott. of missive dues with ane abstract of both, which were appointed to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

6 July 1743.

Commissions approven.

10. The which day there was presented to the convention commissions from the burghs of Stirling, Craill, Kilrenny, and Tain. Which being read the convention approve of the commissions, and the members not qualify'd formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.

Heads & articles of the missive continued as heads of the next missive.

11. The same day the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive and the report of the last annual committee anent the first article of the said missive reported as their oppinion that the plat-

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1743.

Heads & articles of the missive continued as heads of the next missive.

form or first article of the missive shall in all time coming be in the words following, to witt—That each burgh send up their commissioner and assessor sufficiently instructed for keeping the convention, with their commissions subscrived by the magistrats themselves and the clerk of the burgh in name of the councill, and the seall of the burgh affixt thereto or by way of extract, and the subscription of their clerk and seall of cause testifying them to be men fearing God, of the true protestant religion publickly professed and authorized by the laws of this kingdom without suspicion in the contrair, burgeses and (where there is a gildrie) gildbrethern expert in the common affairs of the burrows, merchants, or tradesmen being inhabitants within the burgh and standing on the tax roll of the burgh, and bearing a part of the publick burdens, and who can tyne and win in all their affairs; or if the person elected commissioner or assessor be not a merchant, trafficker, or tradesman as abovementioned and residenter, that it shall not be a sufficient qualification that his commission testify him to be a proprietor of lands or houses to the value of three thousand merks Scots, lying within the royalty or having a superiority to that value, unless he upon his solemn oath depone (if required) upon the verity of such attestation; and the haill commissions to general and particular conventions shall be according to this present platform in time coming, and be inviolably observed by each burgh under the penalty of one thousand merks to be paid by each burgh granting commissions to persons not qualify'd as said is, and one hundred pounds Scots to be paid by the accepters if they are not qualify'd in terms above written, and that by and attour casting their commissions and incapacitating the said burgh from having any representatives during the sitting of the convention; and the committee were furder of oppinion that the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eight, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelveth, thirteen, fourteen, and fifteenth articles of the missive ought to be continued and stand as heads of the next annual missive; and as to sixteenth article anent the tax roll, the committee remit the same to the consideration of the convention. And whereas it was complain'd of to the committee that

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Heads & articles of the missive continued as heads of the next missive.

there were several unfree traders in several parts of this kingdom who pay no part of the stent, the committee were therefor of oppinion that the convention should order the several royal burrows to transmit lists of such unfree traders as they know of to the annual committee betwixt and the first day of September next, to the end that they may give directions to the agent of the burrows to prosecut such unfree traders as the law directs. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint the several articles as abovementioned to be heads of the next annual missive, and also appoint the several royal burrows to transmit lists of the unfree traders to the clerks of the burrows betwixt and the first day of September next to the effect abovementioned.

Committee appointed on the establishment and agent's accotts.

12. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Glasgow, Montrose, Inverness, Dumbar, Linlithgow, Elgin, Dumfreise, Forres, Coupar, and Lochmabin as a committee on the establishment and agent's accotts., to meet this evening at four and make their report to the convention with their first conveniency.

Tax roll to be considered.

13. The same day a motion was made in convention for considering the tax roll, which motion the convention agree not to enter upon till next meeting.

Committee appointed to meet wt. Mr George Smollet.

14. The same day the agent represented that in consequence of the orders of the last convention he had done reall and personal dilligence with respect to the debt due by Mr George Smollet, and that by adjudging his estate and executing a caption against him, in consequence of which he had obtain'd a bond of presentation to this day, and that Mr Smollet was attending in the coffee house to wait the orders of the convention; upon which the convention appoint the commissioners for Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Lochmabin to converse with Mr Smollet betwixt & the afternoon, and to report at that dyet what they judged necessary to be done toward the furder security of the burrows.

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Committee to consider of Mr Thomas Whyte's letters and his demand on the burrows.

15. The same day there was laid before the convention some letters from Thomas Whyte, linnen factor at London, representing that he & the other factors had laid out to the extent of two hundred eighty-five pounds eighteen shillings one penny sterling in obtaining an act of parliament granting a bounty on low priced linning exported; that the Irish traders had paid three fourths of that sum, and therefor it was hoped that the royal burrows of Scotland would order payment of the other fourth amounting to seventy-one pound nine shillings and seven pence sterl., together with a smal ballance of twelve pounds six shillings due in consequence of an application to parliament in the year 1738 towards obtaining an act for the same good purposes with the approbation of the royal burrows. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the commissioners for Pearth, Aberdeen, Glasgow, St Andrews, Montrose, Dundee, Lochmabin, Aberbrothock, and Irving as a committee to meet at the riseing of the convention in the afternoon, and to report to the convention to morrow what they judge propper to be done in that affair.

Report anent Prestonpans referr'd to a committee.

16. The same day the report of the annual committee as to the particular circumstances of the town of Prestonpans together with their remit to this convention being read and considered, the convention remit to the committee on the agent's accompts to consider what is propper to be done towards the releif of the said town as to their proportion upon the tax roll, and to report to the convention with their first conveniency.

List of the arrears of missive dues presented.

17. The same day there was laid before the convention a list of the burghs in arrears for missive dues at July 1743, but it being represented that several of the commissioners were willing to pay the said arrears, the convention delay'd the entering further upon this affair till to morrow forenoon.

Petition for the conveener and other trades of Irving refused.

18. The same day there was read before the convention a petition from the conveener and trades of the burgh of Irving, representing that tho' the magistrats and councill consisted of seventeen members, yet

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Petition for the conveener and other trades of Irving refused.

there was only two of them elected out of the trades, which was next to no representation at all, and therefor praying that the convention would interpose their authority that, without entering into judicial disputes before civil courts, they may get redress in ane amicable manner by having their deacon conveener, who is annually chosen, ordain'd a councillor *ex officio*, and six of their deacons, or one out of every corporation of the trades, annually elected and admitted trades councillors of the burgh of Irving. Which being considered by the convention together with the set of the burgh mentioning that the councill consists of fifteen merchants, includeing the provost, two baillies, dean of gild, and treasurer, and two trades councillors only, they refuse the desire of the petition *simpliciter*.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commission for Kirkwall presented.

19. The which day a commission was presented to the convention by the burgh of Kirkwall, the consideration of which was delay'd till next meeting of the convention.

Act and resolution anent tea and forreign spirits referr'd to the annl. committee.

20. The same day the convention having taken under their serious consideration the unhappy circumstances to which this part of the United Kingdom is reduced thro' the universall and excessive use of tea and forreign spirits to which all ranks, even the verry meanest of the people, are tempted by the low prices at which such commodities, when run, are affoorded by the smugler, and observing with deep concern that the unrestrain'd use of such forreign goods, for the purchas whereof the coin of this country has year after year been exported till at last the scarcity of bullion is verry sensibly felt, has in a great measure supplanted the consumption of malt liquors, and spirits made of grain the grouth of this country, whereby the value of barley and all grains fit for malting must necessarly be reduced to the verry great and unavoidable loss of all landlords and farmers over the kingdom, and is manifastly the cause of the short coming of the duty of two pennies on the pint in all the royal burrows that have obtain'd grants of such dutys, as well as of the

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1743.

Act and resolution anent tea and forreign spirits referr'd to the annl. committee.

remarkable sinking of the publick revenues, which doe not produce at present sufficient to answer the annuity provided by act of parliament for promoting fisherys and manufactures; and being under the strongest and most melancholy apprehensions that this destructive practise, if not speedily and effectually prevented, will compleat the ruine of this country and blast all the hopes that were entertain'd of retreving it by promoteing manufactures, have unanimously resolved that it be an instruction to their annual committee that they doe consider of the most propper and effectual means for restraining and correcting this pernicious evil, and doe in the name of the general convention instruct their representatives in the House of Commons to make the most fitting application to his Majesty, and to parliament, to have such regulations past into a law as may prevent the said universall and excessive use of tea and forreign spirits, and doe appoint this resolution to be printed that the commissioner for each burrow may have a coppy thereof before the riseing of the convention, and they are hereby appointed to lay the same before their constituents to the end that they may transmit their oppinion thereupon to the clerks of the burrows betwixt and the second Wednesday of September next, that the same may be laid before the first meeting of the annual committee thereafter; and the convention appoint and require their annual committee to prepare a draught of instructions to the effect abovementioned, and so soon as that is done to transmit the same to all the members of the said committee and give them timely notise when they intend to come to a final resolution; and furder the convention agree that each of their members be allow'd to sit and vote alongst with their annual committee in their deliberations concerning the above instructions.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited & approven.

21. The same day the committee appointed to audit the agent's accompts reported that having considered the accompt of his intromissions with the cess and missive dues of the burghs of barrony and regality, they fand that his charge, inclusive of four thousand two hundred sixty-seven pound eleven shilling two pennies $\frac{6}{12}$d. of a penny Scots as the ballance in his hand at auditing his accompts in July iajvij & and fourty-two years, and of one thousand four hundred and sixty-

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Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited & approven.

nine pounds nineteen shilling seven pence $5\frac{1}{3}$d of arrears due by the said burghs of barrony at July 1741, and of two thousand eight hundred and seventeen pound five pennies & $\frac{11}{12}$d as a year's cess and missive dues chargable on the said burghs from July 1741 to July 1742 years, amounts to eight thousand five hundred and fifty-four pound eleven shillings two pennies & $\frac{5}{6}$d Scots; and his discharge, inclusive of one thousand fifty-six pound fourteen shilling four pennies and $\frac{1}{3}$d of arrears yet resting by the burghs of barrony and regality at July 1742 years, amounts to twelve thousand four hundred sixty-seven pound five shilling three pennies $\frac{1}{2}$d Scots, whereby the discharge exceeds the charge in the sum of three thousand nine hundred & twelve pounds fourteen shilling and two-thirds of a penny Scots, which ballance he has taken credit for in his accompt of missive dues audited of this date; the instructions of this accompt being seall'd by the preses are left in the clerk's hands. Which report being considered by the convention they approve of the same, and of whi. accompt the tenor follows.

Agent's accotts.

. . . . . .

[22. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited and approven.]

Report of ye committee anent Mr Smollet.

23. The same day the committee appointed to meet with Mr George Smollet, reported that he had granted a new bond of presentation to appear before the convention any time to morrow betwixt and six a cloak in the evening in order to give them satisfaction with respect to what furder security he had to offer for the debt due by him to the royal burrows.

Act freeing the agent of three pound laid on him in the tax roll, and laying the same on the royal burrows mentioned in the first cast or division.

24. The same day the convention having taken into their consideration the sixteenth article of the missive anent the tax roll, and finding that the agent is charged in the said roll with five pound ten shilling for the unfree trade, which is three pound more than he possibly can recover from the burghs of barrony and regality as they are now rated in the tax roll, which three pound has for some years been charged upon the missive and of consequence came to be paid out of the propper revenue of the particular burrows in place of being charged with the

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1743.

Act freeing the agent of three pound laid on him in the tax roll, and laying the same on the royal burrows mentioned in the first cast or division.

cess of the burgh as it regularly ought to be, and the convention finding that that way of charging the same on the missive dues bears hard on many burrows whose patrimony or common good is low, therefor the convention unanimously agree that the agent shall be only charged in the tax roll with two pound ten shilling of the ninty-eight pound charged on him and the burrows by the first cast or division of the tax roll, and with twelve pound twelve shilling six pennies Scots as the monethly proportion laid on him of the two pound proportioned amongst the burrows and him by the second cast or division of the said two pound of the tax roll, and they did and hereby doe appoint the remaining three pound (formerly paid by the agent) to be charged upon and paid by the haill royal burrows according to the several proportions of the ninty-eight pound in the first cast with which they are now charged in the tax roll untill the same be alter'd by the convention, which they continue till July next in so far as the same is not alter'd as above.

Conservator's accott. presented.

25. The same day the conservator presented an accompt of his dues collected by his deput at Camphire since July last, which the convention remit to the committee on the agent's accompt.

Petn. for Anna Kennedy for supply.

26. The same day the convention having heard a petition from Anna Kennedy, only lawll. daughter to Sr. James Kennedy, sometime conservator at Camphire, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accotts.

7 July 1743.

Commission for Kirkwall rejected.

27. The same day the convention having taken under their consideration the commission from the town of Kirkwall to John Wilson, merchant in Edinbr., to be their commissioner, and after reading thereof it appearing that the commission was not in the terms of the platform, the same was by a majority of voices rejected, but the convention are of oppinion that neither the burgh nor commissioner should at this time be lyable in the penaltys contain'd in the missive.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1743

The conservator's accott. delay'd and instructions given to the conservator dept. and factors at Camphire.

28. The same day the committee on the conservator's accompt reported that they having considered the said accompt with the act of convention the eight of July 1742, whereby the deputy conservator is oblidged to depone upon the extent of the conservator's dues uplifted before a burgo master, and in regaurd the dept. conservator has not deponed to the verity of the said accompt as directed by the said act, therefor they are of oppinion that the ballance due to the conservator upon the said accompt should not be paid untill a regular accompt attested upon oath as above is produced; and they are furder of oppinion that in all time coming before any demand be made upon or allow'd by the convention of any deficiency to the conservator deput of what the dues may have fallen short of the fifty pounds sterling, the staple ffactors give in sign'd accompts of all the dues they have charged upon their constituents, articulatly mentioning how much upon every individual, and make affidavit that the same contains the whole conservator's dues paid to them by or charged by them upon their constituents before one of the magistrats of Camphire, and that the conservator deput transmit these accompts to the convention. Which report being considered by the convention they approve thereof, and ordain the conservator deput and factors to comply themselfs according to the report.

Agent appointed to pay £71, 9s. 7d. sterl. & £12, 6s. sterl. to Thos. Whyte.

29. The same day the committee on Thomas Whyte's accompt & remit reported that they having considered the same were of oppinion that the seventy-one pound nine shillings and seven pence sterling and the twelve pound six shillings mentioned in the remit and accompt should be ordered to be paid to the said Thomas Whyte by the agent upon geting a propper discharge thereof. Which report being considered by the convention they approve thereof, and appoint the agent to make payment to the said Thomas Whyte of the forsaid two sums upon geting a propper discharge thereof.

Committee's report anent the establishment approven.

30. The same day the committee to whom the establishment was remitted reported that they having considered the establishment and

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1743.

Committee's report anent the establishment approven.

whole articles thereof were of oppinion that the whole of the articles should be continued upon the establishment except the article of two hundred and eighty pound three shilling and six pennies Scots as the deficiency of ffifty pound sterling allowed to the conservator dept., which they are of oppinion ought not to be stated as ane article on the establishment for the reasons mentioned in the report of the committee to whom the conservator's accompts were remitted. Which being considered by the convention they approve of the report, and appoint their agent to pay the several sallarys and allowances therein contain'd how soon the same falls due.

Act anent the cess & of Prestonpans.

31. The same day the convention having considered the report of the committee to whom was remitted the consideration of the present state and situation of the town of Prestonpans, and what should be done toward their releiff as to their proportion upon the tax roll and arrears due by them, by which report it appears that the committee were of oppinion that in place of the five shilling charged on them in tax roll that they should be only charged with three shilling Scots, and that the agent should discharge the town of Prestonpans of the whole arrear due by them on condition that they betwixt and Martimas next pay into the agent three hundred pounds Scots, but if they faill in payment thereof betwixt and the said term the agent is thereby directed to quarter for the whole arrears; they approve of the said report and upon the town of Prestonpans paying into the agent the said three hundred pounds Scots against the said term they ordain their agent to discharge them of all former arrears.

Act continuing Mr Hugh Forbes as agent notwithstanding of his being chosen clerk of session.

32. The same day it being moved that Mr Hugh Forbes, present agent to the royal burrows, was constitut one of the prinle. clerks of session, & that as this office was incompatible with that of being agent for the burrows some other person should be named as agent, but this motion not being seconded the convention agreed that the question should be put whether or not the agent should be continued notwithstanding of his accepting the office of clerk of session, and the question being put, it carry'd to continue the agent.

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Act appointing a committee to viset Kilwinning.

33. The same day there was a petition presented to the convention by James Montgomry and others for themselves and in name of the other inhabitants of the burgh of regality of Kilwinning, seting furth that some time ago they had agreed and took upon themselves for the releif of the royal burrows a smal proportion of the tax roll for a priviledge of the communication of trade, but that now there being no mercht. in that burgh who deall in export or import they therefor humbly pray'd the convention to exeem the said burgh of regality from payt. of any part of the cess to be imposed upon the royal burrows for the present and all subsequent years, and for that end to give orders to strick the said burgh of Kilwinning out of the roll; and the convention having considered the said petition, they nominat and appoint the burghs of Air and Irving to viset the said town of Kilwinning and to enquire into the several particulars set forth in the said petition and to report their oppinion to the annual committee thereupon.

Act appointing a viset of Lymekilns.

34. The same day there was a petition presented to the convention by Collin Angus in Limekilns for himself and in name of the inhabitants of the said village, praying the convention to discharge the petitioners of ane arrear of debt incurred by them since their acceptance of the communication of trade and to accept of their renunciation of the communication of trade at least to allow a visitation of the circumstances of the said village, and in the meantime to prohibit their agent from distressing them. Which petition being considered by the convention, they nominat and appoint the burghs of Dumferling, Innerkeithing, and Queensferry to viset the said village of Limekilns and to report to the annual committee in what circumstances the inhabitants of the said village are.

Memoriall for the conservator referr'd to the annual committee.

35. The same day there was presented to the convention a memorial for the lord conservator shewing that there are several things with regaurd to the more exact observance of the staple contract and the conservator's dues that he would lay before the convention which might prove advantagious to the trade of the Netherlands, and

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Memoriall for the conservator referr'd to the annual committee.

observing that the present convention will not take time to deliberat upon them he therefor proposed that they might remit the consideration of those things to their annual committee, and to give such directions to the committee thereanent as they shall see cause. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the said memorial to the annual committee with power to them to receive from the conservator such proposalls as he shall make in relations to the matters & things suggested in the said memorial, and they to report the same and give their oppinion thereupon to the next convention.

Agent appointed to concur with Selkirk, and to expend a sum not exceeding £10 sterl.

36. The same day there was a petition of the magistrats and town councill of the burgh of Selkirk presented to the convention, seting furth that his Grace the Duke of Douglas execut a summonds against the town for declairing his right to a weekly mercat held annually within the said burgh upon the tenth day of August and to the customs of the said mercat, and for establishing a jurisdiction of regality within the royalty of the said burgh, and that the town is likeways threatned with a proces from the heritors of the landward part of the paroch of Selkirk for subjecting the town in payment of the half of the repairs of their kirk whereas they are only lyable in one-third of the expences of such repairs; and therefor praying the convention to ordain the agent to concurr with the town at the publick expence in defence of these two processes. Which being considered by the convention, they ordain their agent to concurr with the said town of Selkirk in the defence of these two processes and expend in defending thereof any sum not exceeding ten pounds sterling.

Petn. for Kinghorn referr'd to the annl. committee.

37. The same day there was a petition presented to the convention by the magistrats, town councill, and burgh of Kinghorn, seting forth that by reason of the smal quantity of water that flows into their harbour called the Pettycur and the other disadvantages that attends that harbour the leidges are attended with great dangers in sailing from the said harbour and landing therein, and that there is a plan made out and given in with the said petition to the convention which if duely

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1743.

Petn. for Kinghorn referr'd to the annl. committee.

execute would remedy those inconveniencys, but as the executing thereof will prove expensive, and that as the town is so poor that they can't affoord any money for puting the said plan in execution, therefor praying the convention would order the issueing from the publick funds laid aside for such purposes such a sum as to them should meet towards executing of the said plan, and that they would be pleased to recommend to the several burrows to contribut for that purpose. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the consideration of the annual committee and they to report their oppinion thereupon to the next convention.

Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

38. The same day it was moved in the convention that in regaurd several matters of importance may come in before the annual committee to be named by this convention that therefor the whole members of the convention who shall attend at the several meetings of the annual committee should be declaired members thereof. Which being considered by the convention, they unanimously resolve and agree that all and every one of the members of this convention shall be members of the annual committee, and all and every one of the members of this convention are hereby accordingly named to be members of the annual committee to sit after dissolving of this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every thing that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance yrof., and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five (Edinburgh being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter, except in such caices as require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and they to give notise of

the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no caice have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention, July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on Wednesday next in the old councill house of Edinbr., at twelve a cloak in the forenoon.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1743. Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

[Agent to pay sallarys.]

39. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-four years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Convention dissolved.

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

13 July 1743.

John Coutts, Esq., present lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn & George Langlands; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Forfar, Mr Alexr. Binning; Tain, Mr John Davidson; Aberdeen, Baillie Strachan; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Craill, Mr Robert Clelland; Air, Mr Andrew Huntar; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Banf, Mr Alexr. Innes; Elgin, Mr Willm. Forbes.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1743. Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee unanimously elected John

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1743.

Coutts, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

The same day the annual committee having read the several remits of the convention to them, and particularly a petition for the magistrats, town councill, and inhabitants of the burgh of Kinghorn, seting forth the many inconveniencys which the leidges are exposed to in their passage to & from Kinghorn, by reason of the smal quantity of water that flows into the harbour called the Pettycoar, and the dayly grouth of sand in the prinle. part of that harbour; and having considered the plan of a new harbour proposed to be built by the inhabitants, which will considerably augment the deepth of water and make the passage more convenient for both men and horses, and of consequence be a publick benefit and advantage, and the committee being also satisfyed that the executing the proposed plan will require a much greater sum than the inhabitants can well raise amongst themselves, are therefor of oppinion that the next general convention should grant the petitioners an act recommending a general contribution for promoting so good and laudable an undertaking.

The same day there was presented to the annual committee of the convention of burrows a petition for Alexander and David Gavins, merchants in Montrose, sign'd in their name by Mr George Murison, mercht. & one of the baillies of the said burgh, craving to be admitted factors at the staple port of Campvere, and making offer of Alexander Gavin, senior, and David Skinner, mercht. in Montrose, as cautioners for the faithfull discharge of their office. Which being considered by the annual committee, and they being well informed of the dilligence and capacity of the saids Alexander and David Gavins for discharging the said office, and being also fully satisfy'd with the sufficiency of the said Alexander Gavin, senior, and David Skinner, the proposed cautioners, therefor the committee by virtue of the powers granted to them by the general convention of the royal burrows doe approve of the said cautioners, and have given & granted, and by thir presents give and grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the saids Alexander and David Gavins to be factors at the staple port of Campvere upon

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1743.

the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt.:—that the said office shall endure during the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the saids Alexander and David Gavins shall behave themselves honestly and dutifully in their said office and shall appear before the conservator or his deput and give their oaths *de fideli administratione*, and shall make just compt, reckoning, & payment of whatsoever goods, gear, and sums of money they shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom they shall happen to be imployed as staple factors or that they shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows, and that they shall obey all and whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general and particular conventions, and that they shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden them with and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be whenever they shall happen to be required for that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which they shall happen to intromit with or sell belonging to merchants their constituents, and that they shall not communicat the benefit of their said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted factors at the said port by taking them into copartnery with themselves without the consent of the royal burrows, and that they shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at their own hand conform to the acts of the royal burrows discharging the same, and lastly, incase any of their cautioners above named shall either dye or become insufficient, that they shall renew their caution whenever they shall be required thereto; and in regaurd the saids Alexander and David Gavins are at present at Middleburg, and so cannot now grant bond in manner and to the effect abovementioned, therefor the committee appoint their clerks not to give out ane extract of this their admission untill their cautioners abovenamed doe lodge in the clerk's hands a bond of cautionry for them in the usual

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1743.

form, and containing also a clause that they shall in a convenient space of time procure the saids Alexander and David Gavins their obligation, to implement and fullfill the above conditions in the usual form.

19 January 1744.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of the city of Edinbr.; Edinbr., Hugh Hathorn, dean of gild, & George Langlands, surgeon; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverkeithing, Mr Cunningham; Elgin, William Forbes.

The which day the committee having heard a petition from the burgh of barrony of Linktown, and a petition in name and behalf of the inhabitants of the village of Crawfoordyke, doe refuse the desire of their petitions, reserving to the petitioners to apply to the convention for obtaining redress of what is therein complain'd of as accords.

3 April 1744.

Sederunt

John Coutts, lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinr., Hugh Hathorn, dean of gild, & George Langlands, surgeon; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Tain, John Davidson; Elgin, Willm. Forbes; Irving, James Fergushill.

The which day the annual committee considering that our trade will be much molested if not totally interrupted by the Ffrench privateers now that war is declared against this kingdom by the Ffrench king, therefor they unanimously resolved and agreed that the lord provost of Edr., their preses, should write a letter to Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent for the royal burrows, impowering him to apply to the right honble. the lords of the admiralty, or to such other person or persons as he shall think propper, for having such a number of ships of war stationed upon our coasts as shall be judged necessary not only for protecting our trade but to convoy all outward and homeward bound ships; and the preses having exhibit the scroll of a letter to that effect, the committee approved thereof and recommend to his lordship to

forward the same to Mr Hamilton, and likeways to write to the same purpose to Archibald Stewart, Esqr., representative for the city of Edinbr., & the lord advocat, intreating them not only to be aiding and assisting to Mr Hamilton in procuring a propper number of ships of war to be sent down to our coasts, but also to apply to the other members of parliament to use their intrest to procure the said ships to be stationed and give such convoys as abovementioned, and that without loss of time; & of which letter the tenor follows:— EDINBURGH. 3 April 1744.

Sr.,—The annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland, apprehending that their sea coasts, which at present are quite defenceless and ungaurded, will soon be infested with French privateers, have ordered me to write yow desireing yow will in their name make the propper application to the board of admiralty for ships to be stationed on the coast and for convoys to our shipping, which has been usually granted in the time of a war with France.

At present there are vessels lying in different parts loaded with our manufactures and other goods bound for London, which cannot with safety venture to proceed untill they have a convoy, and therefor the sooner your application is made effectual so much the better.

I have wrote to Archibald Stewart, Esqr., member of parliament for Edinburgh, who will with the other members for the royal burrows give yow any assistance they can for procureing a speedy & agreeable answer from the board to your application.—I am, sr., your most humble servt.,

JOHN COUTTS, preses.

24 May 1744.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn, dean of gild, & George Langlands, conveener; Glasgow, Laurance Dunwoddie; Inverness, John Baillie; Tain, John Davidson; Stranraer, James Fergushill. Sederunt.

The which day the preses reported that letters were by him transmitted to London agreeable to the resolution mentioned in the former

EDINBURGH. 24 May 1744.

minuts, and that their agent at London had along with a letter transmitted a coppy of a petition presented to the lords of the admiralty, the tenor of both which are as follows:—

My lord,—I had the favour of your lordship's of the 3rd, which was delivered to me by Mr Stewart (under whose cover it came) on Thursday last. I forthwith prepared a petition to the lords of the admiralty which I yesterday show'd to Mr Stuart and several other of the gentlemen that are members of parliament from Scotland, who all approved of the draught.

As it was thought most adviseable that I should alone wait upon the lords of the admiralty, I waited upon them this day, and sent to Mr Corbet and delivered him the petition, whereof inclosed I send yow a coppy, and which I sign'd as agent to the royal burrows; after staying some time, Mr Corbet came to me with a message from the lords, that they had read the petition, and would this day sign orders for two men of war to saill for Scotland to protect their trade, and that one of them should convoy the ships for London, and the other those for Holland, and desired me to acquaint your lordship that the ship would be verry soon at Leith, and that propper directions should be given to have the ships ready to saill as soon as could be after the arrival of the man of war. I hope I have punctually comply'd with the directions of your lordship and the committee of burrows, which shall always be my endeavour in every thing they are pleased to entrust me with.

Mr Stewart tells me that during the late wars with France the captains of the men of war that were in Scotland were by their orders oblidged to obey the directions of the provost of Edinbr. Now give me leave to submit one thing to your lordship, that as no doubt such powers and authorities as the lord provost of Edinburgh had from time to time from the lords of the admiralty are enter'd in the city books, I should think it adviseable coppys of all these orders or letters from the admiralty should be sent up here, that incase it should be necessary to make any further applications for the like directions we may have the presidents to found on, and by having the dates wee may the easier

EDINBURGH
24 May 1744

have recourse to the entrys in the admiralty court books, and which will make all applications in like cases the more easy; but this I intirely submit and shall be verry glad to obey whatever commands I shall receive from your lordship and the committee of burrows, and am, my lord, your lordship's most humble & most obedient servt.,

Sic subtr.,

Lincolns Inn, 14 April 1744. WILL. HAMILTON.

Follows the petition to the admiralty.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners appointed for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the petition of the committee of the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland,

Humbly sheweth,—

That as war is now declared betwixt Great Britain and France, there is no reason to doubt but the sea coasts of Scotland will soon be infested with French privateers, that having been the usual practise dureing the late war.

There are at present vessells lying in different ports of Scotland loaded with their manufacture and other goods bound for London, which cannot with safety proceed in their voyages without a convoy.

The said committee therefor humbly pray your lordships will be pleased to give such propper directions as your lop. shall think fitt for stationing ships on the coast of Scotland and to grant convoys to the ships coming from that country, which have been usually granted in the time of war with France, and without which the trade of that country must suffer, greatly to the prejudice of that part of the United Kingdom.

After which the preses furder reported that he had by a circular letter acquainted the tradeing burrows that such as intended to take the benefit of the said convoy should as soon as possible repair to Leith. Which being considered by the committee, they recommend to their preses to continue his applications to the admiralty for ships to be stationed on the several coasts of Scotland and for convoys to our shipping.

EDINBURGH. 24 May 1744.

The same day the preses laid before the committee ane act of the town council of Edinbr. relative to the destructive practise of smugling brandy, tea, &ca., containing their resolution to discourage the same, & of which the tenor follows:—

Edinbr., 23rd of May 1744.

Wee, the lord provost, magistrats, and town councill of the city of Edinbr., taking into our serious consideration the scandalous and destructive tho' prevailing practise of smugling of brandy, tea, and other foreign commodities, and being thorowly convinced that such practise is not only attended with great loss to the fair trader, but must evidently, if continued, be the occasion of the ruin & destruction of this part of the nation—as grain the natural produce of this country lyes upon the hand of the heritor & farmer unconsumed and neglected, people of the very lowest rank useing tea & brandy in place of ale and home made spirits; as the cash which used to circulat amongst our selves when imployed in the purchas of corns is now profusely sent abroad to purchas these destructive commodities; and as the health and the morals of the people are by the immoderat consumpt of them greatly impared & debauched; the ffishing which might prove a beneficial branch of trade to this country greatly hurt, the fishermen choising rather to employ their time in smugling than in prosecuting their lawfull employ: doe therefor resolve to discourage to the utmost of our power the universal and immoderat use of tea, brandy, & all other smugled goods, and doe exhort all the tradeing companys, corporations, & inhabitants of the city to enter into and persevere in this resolution soe necessary in itself and so beneficial to the nation, and doe appoint this our resolution to be communicated to the annual committee of the royal burrows, that if the said committee think it expedient the same may be by them transmitted to the several burrows.—Extracted by

Sic subtr. JOS. WILLIAMSON, clerk.

Which act being considered by the committee, they unanimously approve thereof and appoint printed coppys thereof and of the pamphlet—

intituled, Some considerations upon the present state of Scotland,—to be transmitted to the several burrows that they may consider of the most effectual method of preventing the pernicious practise of smugling and the immoderat use of tea, brandy, and other smugled goods.

EDINBURGH. 24 May 1744.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

3 July 1744.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1744. Sederunt.

Edinr., Hugh Hathorn & George Langlands; Pearth, James Crie; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, Alexr. Aberdeen; Stirling, William Chrystie; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, William Douglas; Glasgow, Laurence Dunwoodie; Air, John Campbell; Hadington, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, Lord Sinclair; Kirkaldie, Alexr. Steadman; Montrose, David Skinner; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, John Ewart; Dumfreise, Duncan Fforbes, lord president; Inverness, Duncan Fforbes, lord president; Bruntisland, Mr James Oswald; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, John Glasgow; Jedburgh, Joseph Thomson; Kirkudbright, Willm. Gordon; Wigtoun, David M'Quhae; Pittenweem, George Clelland; Dumferling, John Lindsay; Anstr. Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Thomas Laury; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Ranfrew, William Somervel; Dumbar, John Pollock; Lanerk, Willm. Wild; Aberbrothock, Patrick Wallace; Elgin, James Stephen; Peebles, James Halden; Craill, James Moncreiff; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran, advt.; Banf, Alexr. Innes; Whithorn, John M'Candlish; Ruthglen, Willm. Muir; North Berwick, Alexr. Nisbet; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, Andrew Thomson; Kilrenny, Patrick Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Willm. Maxwell; Sanquhar, Charles Crighton; Dingwall, Kenneth Bayne; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintore, Mr Robert Bruce; Inverurie, Willm. Bruce; Kirkwall, James Blaw; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Stranraer, James Ffergushill; Campbeltoun, Mr Robt. Malcolm; (ten burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1744. Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected John Coutts, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses dureing the siting of this present convention; who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, having formerly qualify'd himself to his Majesty in the same capacity.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Glasgow, Linlithgow, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Brechin, Pittenweem, Selkirk, Dumbar, Elgin, Craill, Stirling, Dumfreise, Air, Ranfrew, Aberbrothock, and Campbeltoun as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the said commissions; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not qualifyed formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Gavin Hamilton, assessor for Edinbr.; John Burnet, assessor for Aberdeen; John Loch, assessor for St Andrews; Alexr. Steedman, commissioner for Kirkaldie; Charles Fall, assessor for Dumbar; James Moncreiff, commissioner for Craill; & John Campbell, commissioner for Air.

2d article read.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to the appointment of the convention.

Trustees' report & receiver's payments presented.

4. The same day David Flint, secretary to the trustees for improvement of fisherys and manufactures, gave in a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last, as also George Innes, clerk to Mr Allan Whitefoord, general receiver, gave in the accompts of the paymts. made by him in consequence of the trustees' orders for the year preceeding the twenty-fifth of December last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Eodem die post meridiem.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1744.

Commissions approven.

5. The committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they having heard the commissions for the burghs of Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Lanerk, Bruntisland, Peebles, Kinghorn, Innerkeithing, Irving, Jedburgh, Banf, Culross, Whithorn, Ruthglen, North-berwick, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, Queensferry, Kintoir, Inveruray, Kirkwall, Stranraer, and Inverbervie, they were of oppinion that the convention should approve of the said haill commissions, except as to the assessor for Kirkwall, who appears not to be qualifyed in the terms of the platform. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said haill commissions except as to the assessor for Kirkwall for the reasons mentioned in the report.

Dingwall's commission approven as to ye prinle. only.

6. The same day a commission was presented for the burgh of Dingwall nameing Kenneth Bayn of Tulloch their commissioner and Mr Charles Hamilton Gordon, advocat, his assessor. Which being read in full convention, they approve of the said commission as to the prinle. but reject the same as to the assessor.

Annual missive read & committed.

7. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named, to whom they add the burghs of Coupar, Bruntisland, Banf, and Irving.

The agent presented his accotts.

8. The same day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the royal burrows, presented his accompts, unfree trade, and missive dues, which the convention remitt to the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Lithgow, Coupar, Ranfrew, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Aberbrothock, Dumferling, Stirling, Irving, Culross, and Bamf.

Fortrose commission rejected.

9. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Fortrose in favours of Mr John M'Kenzie, writer in Edinbr., they reject the same in regaurd he is not qualifyed in the terms of the platform.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1744.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

10. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve thereof.

Petition to the admiralty approven

11. The same day ane draught of a petition from the convention to the lords of the admiralty being presented and read, the convention approve yrof. and impower their preses to sign the same in their name, and to transmit the same to Mr Willm. Hamilton, their agent at London, to be by him without loss of time laid before the lords of the admiralty; & of which petition the tenor follows:—

To the Rt. Honble. the Lords appointed for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the petition of the royal burrows of Scotland in general convention assembled,

Humbly sheweth—

That since the commencement of the war with France your petitioner's agent made application to your lops. in order to procure propper directions for stationing ships on the coasts of Scotland for protecting the trade from the great hazard it was manifastly exposed to from the French privateers on both sides of the island.

That the passage by the Orkneys and North of Scotland has always in time of war with France been much frequented, not only by most of the shipping belonging to this country, but likeways those bound to and from the southern ports of Great Britain, as the safest course.

That in the last application made to your lops., information was then given that a French privateer, called the Susan of Callais, was at that time cruiseing upon the western coasts of Scotland, and had taken off the Orkneys a ship belonging to Liverpool, which was ransomed at £250 sterl.

That your petitioners have now information that since that time the said privateer has taken the following ships:—The Margaret of Frazersburgh, Andrew Greg, master, ransomed at £130 sterl.; the Unity of Newcastle, Alexander Dickie, commander, ransomed at £170 sterl.; a ship from Liverpool, a ship from Whitehaven, ane Irish vessell; as also

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1744.

a ship belonging to Cromarty, John Reid, master; and likeways a vessell belonging to New York, Captain Johnstoun, master, and estimat worth £12,000, as appears by a letter from the said Captain Alexr. Dickie of the Unity, dated at Peterhead on the 26th June last, and herewith transmitted to your lordships.

That as your petitioners are informed there is as yet no ship of war stationed either upon the west or east coasts of Scotland for protecting or convoying of the trade, by which their trade is at present much exposed, and may suffer greatly unless a prompt and speedy protection to the trade be appointed by your lordships, and as the trade of the whole Island is manifestly concerned, and that dureing the late war the ships stationed at Leith were by the orders of the lords of the admiralty to consult with and obey the directions of the lord provost of Edinbr., and those on the west coast, the directions of the lord provost of Glasgow,

Your petitioners therefor humbly pray your lordships will be pleased to give such propper directions for stationing ships on the coast of Scotland for protecting and convoying of the commerce with such instructions as the circumstances of the case doe require, and to your lordships shall seem meet.

Act in favour of Kinghorn.

12. The same day the convention having considered a petition from the burgh of Kinghorn, with the plan for making a new harbour, together with the sign'd opinion of eight of the shipmasters at Leith, and being fully satisfied with the execution of that plan in the manner proposed would prove a publick benefite, and being sensible that the inhabitants have already undertaken as much as could well be expected for them, doe therefore unanimously recommend to all the royall burrows to make a general contribution for promoting so good and laudible an undertaking, and do recommend it to the respective magistrates of the said burghs to take such methods for making that collection effectuall, and transmitting the same to the magistrates of Kinghorn, as to them shall seem most expedient.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1744. A motion anent the linning manufactures committed.

13. The same day a motion being made by the commissioner for the burgh of Glasgow that the convention would take under their consideration what proper measures should be taken for obtaining some further publick encouragement for promoting the linnen manufactures, the convention remitt the consideration thereof to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Linlithgow, Cupar, Kirkaldy, Montrose, Aberbrothock, Dunfermling, Stirling, Irvine, Culross, and Dumfries, and such other of the members as shall attend the said committee, whom they appoint to meet to morrow at nine o'clock, and to bring in their report thereanent against next sederunt.

Act in favours of David Gregory for renewing his cautioners.

14. The same day was presented to the convention a petition from Mr David Gregory setting furth that Mr James Gregory, professor of mathematicks, one of his cautioners, was deceased, and that Mr James Stewart, another of his said cautioners, was desirous to be relieved of his said cautionry, and therefore praying that the convention would in place of these former cautioners accept of David Cuthbert of Rosehall, merchant in Aberdeen, Mr Thomas Reid, minister of the gospel at Newmachar, in the shire of Aberdeen, and John Haliburton, senior, merchant in Edinburgh, as cautioners, who were willing to become bound not only for his fidelity in the said office, but also to releive his former cautioners of all dammages and expence they could anyways sustain by their being bound for him, and upon their granting bond in these terms to appoint the clerks to deliver up the former bond of cautionry. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the cautioners now named by the petitioner, and therefore they grant the desire of the petition, and appoint their clerks to receive a bond of cautionry subscribed by the cautioners abovenamed, and to deliver up the old bond.

4 July 1744.

Commissions approven.

15. The which day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Forfar, Haddingtoun, & Inverness, they approve of the said commissions.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1744.

Act anent the linnen manufactures.

16. The same day the committee appointed to consider the proper methods for encouraging the linnen manufacture reported that upon considering the great importance of our home linnen manufactory, which with further publick encouragement might & would be greatly extended to the unspeakable advantage of all ranks and every corner of this part of the Island, were therefore of opinion that the convention should recommend to the lord provost of Edinburgh to write letters in their name to all the members of parliament from Scotland, requesting them zealously and unanimously to countenance and support every measure that may have a tendency to promote and enlarge the linnen manufactures of Great Brittain and Ireland; and in case the exigencies of government require any new taxes, to give it as the sense of the convention that ane additional duty on forreign linnen is by far the most eligible and conducive to the interest of this country, and particularly of the state of burrows, and that the convention should desire the severall burrows earnestly to inforce this application with their respective members of parliament. Which report being considered by the convention, they unanimously approve thereof and appoint their preses and the severall burrows to write letters accordingly.

Agent's accotts. of unfree trade audited.

17. The same day the committee appointed to audite the agent's accompts reported that having considered the accompt of his intromissions with the cess and missive dues of the burghs of barony and regality, they fand that his charge, inclusive of six hundred fifty-three pounds four shillings seven pence $\frac{5}{12}$ of a penny Scots as the ballance in his hands at auditing his accompt of missive dues in July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-three, and of the arrears due by the said burghs of barony and regality at July one thousand seven hundred and ffourty-two, amounts to four thousand one hundred and four pounds three shilling and six pennies & six-twelveths; and that his discharge, inclusive of nine hundred eighty-nine pounds four shilling six pennies eleven-twelfths of arrears due by the burghs of barony and regality at July one thousand seven hundred and ffourty-three, amounts to three thousand seven hundred thirty-two pounds eleven shilling ten pennies and eleven-

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1744.

Agent's accotts. of unfree trade audited.

twelfths of a penny Scots; whereby there is a balance due by the agent upon this accompt of three hundred & seventy-one pounds eleven shilling seven pennies & seven-twelths of a penny Scots, with which sum the agent ought to charge himself in his next accompt; the instructions of this accompt being sealed by the preses and left in the clerk's hands. Which being consider'd, the convention approve of the forsaid report & appoint the agent to charge himself with the forsaid balance.

[18. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited. 19. Heads & articles of the missive continued.]

Act anent the unfree traders.

20. The same day the committee appointed to consider the unfree trade reported that having taken into their consideration the present state of the unfree trade carry'd on in the burghs of regality and barrony who have not accepted of the communication of trade to which they were intituled by law, as also considered the reports of the committees to which the same subject had been committed in anno 1724, they were of oppinion that this usurpation is dayly increasing, and that in order to put a stop thereto, the convention might recommend it to the annual committee to give orders to the agent to draw up a memorial and state of the unfree trade, with the difficultys that attends the execution of the laws made for protecting the exclusive priviledge of the burrows from such encroachments, and to subjoin thereto propper queries to be laid before lawiers, by what legal method such usurpations may be prevented in time coming, whether by declarator before the lords of council and session, concludeing agt. persons within such burrows of barrony and regality who have not accepted of the communication of trade and yet continue to trade, that they within a time limited either should apply and accept of such a communication from the royal burrows or find caution to desist, or that the royal burrows should have power to impose a just proportion of the stent effeiring to their trade, or some such method agreeable to law and consistent with prudence; and that the annual committee should transmit the said memorial and queries to the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Pearth, Lithgow, Montrose,

Dumfreise, Elgin, Stirling, and Inverness, that they may make their amendments or additions to the same, with power to the annual committee to lay the said memorial with amendments & additions before lawiers, and to report the said oppinion to the next convention; which report the convention approve of.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1744.

Act anent the unfree traders.

21. The same day a commission from the town of Tain to John Davidson, prinle. clerk of justiciary, was read and rejected unless Mr Davidson appear and declair whether or not he has the qualifications mentioned in the said commission.

Tain's commission delay'd.

22. The same day a report by the burghs of Dumferling, Queensferry, and Innerkeithing, who had visited the burgh of Limekilns, being read, the convention remit the same to the annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Report anent Lymekilns.

23. The same day a petition from the lord conservator relative to the staple port being read, the convention remit to the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, St Andrews, Glasgow, Kirkaldie, and Cullen to consider the same and report.

Petition for the conservator committed.

24. The same day a petition for the Linktown of Arnot was read praying the convention to find that the inhabitants and traders of Brigtoun, having accepted of the benefit of the communication of trade or their being in use all along to pay cess with the village of Linktoun, that they could not withdraw themselves from payment of the same under pretext of their being locally within another jurisdiction; at least if it should happen to be the oppinion of the convention that the inhabitants of Brigtoun should be assessed seperat from Linktown, that in that case the burgh of Linktoun should be allowed a proportional rebatement and deduction of the cess at which it is presently rated. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the said petition to the annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Petition for Linktown of Arnot committed.

25. The same day a motion being made that Hutson, late provost of Aberbrothock, would be a verry fit person for keeping

A motion for Hutson referr'd to ye annl. committee.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1744.

the publick house at Campvere, the convention remit the same to the annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

[26. Horning agt. burrows deficient in payt. of their missive dues.]

Petition for Sanquhar referr'd to the annl. committee.

27. The same day a petition from the burgh of Sanquhar was read praying it might please the convention to order payment of the sum of twelve pound sterling, which was appointed to be paid to that burgh by the convention in July iajvij & and twenty-seven, for repairing the publick works thereto belonging, which sum Mr Smollet their agent never had paid, tho' he had taken credit therefor in his accotts. audited in July iajvij & and twenty-eight; and craving that the convention might give further allowance to the said miserable burgh to pay the charges of a new casway, which was done upon the faith of receiving the said twelve pound sterling, and for furnishing the inhabitants with water. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the annual committee to consider the same and report.

Petn. for the magistrats of Kirkwall.

28. The same day a petition from James Blan, one of the magistrats of Kirkwall, in name and behalf of the magistrats of the said burgh was presented and read, praying that it might please the honble. convention for the reasons therein set forth to ease the said burgh in the tax roll, or take such other methods for their releif as to their prudence should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the annual committee to enquire into the allegations in the said petition, and to report the same to the next general convention.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commission for Dumbarton delayed.

29. The same day a commission from the burgh of Dumbarton to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as prinle., and Mr James Smollet, advocat, as assessor, was read and the same was appointed to lye upon the table, in respect that the prinle. refused to accept and the assessor was absent.

Report anent Kilwinning.

30. The same day the committee's report anent the burgh of Kilwinning was read, which the convention remit to the annual committee to doe therein as they shall see meet.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1744.

Act in favours of the conservator.

31. The same day the committee appointed to consider the petition of Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., conservator, reported that they were of oppinion that the conservator should be allowed the sum of fourty pound sterl., to make up the deficiencys short of fifty pounds sterling claimed by him for his deput from the first of July 1742 to the first of July 1744 inclusive, and that in name of all further claime on that head; and that in all time coming while the conservator enjoys his said office he should, in lieu of his said claime to make up the dues to fifty pounds sterling, be allowed to exact from each vessell coming to Camphere in name of consulage the sum of three gilders, and that the conservator should by a deed under his hand accept of the said three gilders in full of all demands in time coming upon the above accompt; as also that the old tax of six gilders usually exacted at Campvere from all merchants the first time of their being at said port should be abrogated, and the conservator and his deputs discharged from levying the same in all time coming. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their agent to pay the said fourty pounds sterling to the conservator upon his signing a deed in the terms before mentioned, and doe authorize and impower him to exact from each vessell comeing to Campvere, in name of consulage, three gilders in full of all demands for making up the dues to fifty pounds sterling, and doe prohibit and discharge the conservator and his deputs to levy the forsaid tax of six gilders formerly payable by merchants upon their first arrival at the port of Campvere.

A committee to consider the establishmt.

32. The same day the convention remit the consideration of the establishment to the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, & Cullen, and appoint them to report their oppinion to the next sederunt.

Tax roll continued for 1 year.

33. The same day the convention having considered the sixteenth article of the missive anent the tax roll, they unanimously continue the same for one year, till July 1745, and also continue the assignations made to particular burrows for their releif untill the said time.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1744.

Committee anent the cess arrears.

34. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen to meet to morrow morning at ten o'cloak with the general receiver to enquire what burghs are deficient in payment of their cess, and to what extent, and to report the same to the next sederunt, and appoint such burghs as are deficient to attend the committee.

Committee anent wool exported to Camphire.

35. The same day the convention, upon a motion that wool was imported to Campvere from Ireland, of which several of the members had good information, appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen as a committee to bring in a propper draught of ane act upon that head against the next sederunt.

5 July 1744.

Act anent the linnen to be printed & by the annl. committee.

36. The which day the convention recommend to their annual committee, before sitting down of the parliament, to write to the magistrats of the several burrows, to apply to the several members of parliament to be aiding and assisting in geting what furder encouragment can be had for carrying on and promoting the linnen manufactorys in the terms of the sixteenth act of this present convention; which act they ordain to be printed, and two coppys thereof sent to each burgh.

Annual committee on the arrears of cess.

37. The same day the convention recommend to their annual committee to consider and consult upon what will be the propperest method for making effectual the arrears of cess due by the several burrows and for uplifting and levying the cess in time comeing.

Dumbarton's commission approven as to the assr.

38. The same day the commission from Dumbarton being again read & considered, the convention approve of the said commission as to Mr Smollet, the assessor, but recommend to him to cause the burgh pay up before next convention the missive dues they are resting.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1744.

Report as to the sallarys, &c., on the establishment approven.

39. The same day the committee appointed to consider the sallarys and other gratuitys given by the royal burrows as they are now standing upon the establishment, reported that they having considered the same were of oppinion that the whole of the said sallarys and gratuitys should be continued as they now stand, except the gratuitys given to the usher of exchequer, the macers of exchequer, the macers of session, the presenter of signatures and his servant, and the two doorkeepers of exchequer, amounting to two hundred and two pounds ten shilling eight pennies Scots, which they were of oppinion should be struck off in time coming as there appear'd no satisfying reasons to the committee why they should be continued. Which being considered by the convention they approve of the sd. report.

Act anent wool exported to Campvere.

40. The same day the committee appointed to consider the motion anent the wool exported to Campvere, reported that they were of oppinion that as the exporting of wool to Camphire from Great Britain or Ireland is of the most pernicious consequence, the convention ought therefor to prohibit & discharge their staple factors at Camphire to receive any wool the produce of Great Britain or Ireland under the pain of forfeiting their commissions as staple factors, and to recommend to the conservator to intimat this appointment to them; the convention approve of the said report and discharge the factors accordingly.

Act agt. the smuglers of tea & brandy comitted.

41. The same day the convention having taken under consideration several resolutions taken by many of the countys in Scotland and by some of the burrows against the destructive practise of smugling, and having enquired at the several members if or not their respective burghs had enter'd into that laudable resolution to discourage that pernicious and detestable practise of smugling; and it appearing to the convention that most of the burghs had enter'd into the said resolution but that some of them had not, the convention therefor earnestly recommend to such of the burrows who have not yet enter'd into the said resolution to doe it without loss of time, and to cause insert their several resolutions in the publick news papers, and exhorts and obtests the several

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1744. Act agt. the smuglers of tea & brandy comitted.

burrows to keep their several resolutions inviolably; and furder the convention recommends to the annual committee to make strict inquiry how far the several burrows have keept their resolutions, and to report the same to the next convention, to the end the convention may doe therein as to them shall seem just; and they ordain these presents to be insert in the publick prints.

Act anent smuglers of tea & brandy.

42. The same day the convention recommend to the annual committee to write a circular letter to all the burghs requireing the magistrats of each burrow to make application to the justices of the peace in the respective county where the burgh lyes, to authorize their constables to summonds all the farmers and seamen upon the coast within their several countys to compear before the said justices in order to enact themselves under a penalty that they shall in noways be aiding or assisting to any smugler; and incase any should refuse soe to doe, the magistrats should concurr with the justices of the peace, not only in certifying such persons if they shall be found accessory to the running of tea and brandy that they will put the laws in execution against them, but actually doe soe.

Agent to pay to Selkirk £10 sterl.

43. The same day it appearing by a certificat under the hand of William Elliot, agent for Selkirk, that he had expended above fifty pounds sterling in lawsuits for the town within this twelve moneths, therefor the convention authorize their agent to pay to the commissioner for the sd. town the ten pounds sterling ordered to be pay'd by last convention.

Petition for Craill referr'd to the annual committee.

44. The same day a petition was presented for the burgh of Craill, praying the convention would order such a sum as they should think reasonable for repairing the harbour of the said burgh, and to enable them to prosecut the several lawsuits mentioned in the petition. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee with power to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Memorial for Archd. Tod committed.

45. The same day there was presented to the convention a memorial

for Archibald Tod, writer in Edinbr., seting forth that he had become bound as cautioner for Smart Tennent as a staple factor at Camphire, who has about a twelve moneth ago stopt payment, and that as he did not look upon himself as bound after the said period, soe he did not incline to continue any longer bound, and craved the convention would discharge him of his baill bond in time coming. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1744. Memorial for Archd. Tod committed.

46. The same day a petition for the burgh of Selkirk was presented praying for the aid of the convention to enable the magistrats to defend themselves in their just rights and priviledges in the lawsuits mention'd in the said petition. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the said petition to the annual committee to consider the matters set forth in the said petition, and report their oppinion thereof to the next convention.

Petition for Selkirk presented.

47. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Craill, Culross, Banf, Nairn, North Berwick, Cullen, Queensferry, and Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five (Edinburgh being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the

Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1744.

Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be to morrow at eleven in the forenoon, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them.

Absent burrows fyned in 100 lit. Scots each.

48. The same day the convention fyne and amerciat the burghs of Tain, Rothesay, Nairn, New Gallaway, Inverary, and Wick in one hundred pounds Scots each for not sending up commissioners to this convention as directed by the missive, and appoints letters of horning to be direct & oyr. dilligence necessary at the agent's instance against the saids royal burrows for payment thereof; but in regaurd the burgh of Forres has paid in their missive dues and sent up a commission to John Baillie, who was chosen assessor for the town of Inverness and therefor could not accept of the said commission, the convention therefor excuse the said burgh of any fyne.

Forres excused.

Agent appointed to pay sallarys & gratuitys.

49. The same day the convention appoints their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, to wit—to the prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterl. of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterl. of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterl. of sallary; to Robert Craigie, Esqr., his

Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks of sallary; to his servant, sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to the said David Flint, for the rent of the trustees' office, twenty pound sterl.; to Mr William Hamilton, agent at London, twenty-five pound sterling of sallary; to Allan Whitefoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to James Nasmyth and George Lindsay, dept. clerks, twenty pounds sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair as recorder, thirty pounds sterl. in full of all sallary and writings; to the burrow officer, twenty pound sterl. of sallary and four pound sterl. of gratuity on accompt of his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, five pound sterling; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pounds Scots; to the gardiner of Heriot's hospital for flowers, twelve pounds Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pound Scots; to Ann Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, five pounds sterling yearly dureing her life of supply.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1744. Agent appointed to pay sallarys & gratuitys.

50. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-five years, and appoints their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

The convention dissolved.

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

6 July 1744.

John Coutts, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn, d. gild, & George Langlands, conveener; Pearth, Mr Robt. Craigie, his Majtie's. advocat; Dundee, Mr Patrick Yeaman; Glasgow, Mr Laurence Dinwooddie; Air, Mr John Campbell; Dumfreise, Mr John Ewart; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Banf, Mr Alexander Innes; Ruthglen, Mr Willm. Muir; Aberdeen, Mr

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1744. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1744. Sederunt.

Alexander Aberdeen; Peebles, Mr James Halden; Selkirk, Thomas Laury; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Bruntisland, Mr James Oswald; Linlithgow, John Buckney; North Berwick, Mr Alexr. Nisbet; Sanquhar, Mr Charles Crighton; Elgin, Mr James Stephan; Forfar, Mr Alexr. Binning; Whithorn, Mr John M'Candish; St Andrews, Mr John Loch; Kirkudbright, Mr Willm. Gordon; Anstruther Easter, Mr Andrew Johnston.

Preses chosen.

The which day the annual committee did elect and choise John Couts, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Remit to ye agent anent unfree trader.

The same day the committee having read and considered the several remits of the last annual convention to them, and particularly the 20th act anent unfree traders and the manner in which they are to be prosecuted, they remit to Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to draw up a memorial concerning the said unfree traders, and to subjoin queries thereto in manner directed by the said act; to whom also they remit the report anent Limekilns, the petition of the inhabitants of Linktown of Arnot, the petition of the magistrats of Kirkwall, and the report anent the town of Kilwinning, that he may state the matters set forth therein & give his oppinion thereanent.

The lord advocat's oppinion as to ye arrears of cess due by particular burrows.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the 37th act of the last convention relative to the arrears of cess due by the several royal burrows, and of the propper methods for levying & ingathering the same, and having advised with his Majestie's advocat as assessor to the burrows thereanent, his lordship gave it as his oppinion that there is no law that subjects one burrow for the cess of another; ffor that by the several acts of parliament preceeding the 1696, a certain quota of cess is imposed upon every county and every burrow, but by the act 1696 the burrows are impowered to settle the quota payable by each particular burrow, which is the standing rule to this day; that as by this act the royal burrows have only the power of settleing the quota, they are no further to be concern'd with the levying and ingathering of the cess, that being left to the commissioners of supply, collectors, and others appointed by law for that end; and as

before the date of the said act 1696 one county was not lyable for the cess of another, soe neither was one burrow lyable for the cess of another burrow, and there is no law making any alteration since the date of the said act.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1744.

The lord advocat's oppinion as to ye arrears of cess due by particular burrows.

That as to the levying and ingathering the cess by the act 1681, and by the acts of convention 1667 & 1678 therein referr'd to, the cess may be levy'd by the receiver general by quartering upon the several collectors of shyres or burrows by sending four dragoons or six foot for each 1000 lit. Scots of deficiency, and the particular collectors have their releif by giving lists to the commissioners of supply of persons deficient, who again order quartering upon them.

The commissioners may also levy the cess by decreets and poinding, or imprisoning the deficients for the cess and the expence of levying.

His lordship also observed that there is a prescription of three years in favours of every party lyable in payment of the cess, except where denunciation is used, and then the prescription is in four years.

And the committee having considered the memorial and list of deficients given in by the general receiver, they are of oppinion that the convention should not interpose in that matter, leaving it to the general receiver to ingather the same in such a way as the laws in being doe direct.

10 July 1744.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn and George Langlands; Banf, Mr Alexander Innes; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Selkirk, William Wauch.

Selkirk's petn. delay'd.

The which day the committee having taken into their consideration the petition and representation of the burgh of Selkirk, and having heard Mr Andrew Pringle, advocat, and William Wauch anent the matters therein set forth, they delay the furder consideration of the said affair till Tuesday, the twenty-fourth instant, that the partys may

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1744.

Selkirk's petn. delay'd.

write to their respective constituents and know if they will submit their differences to the burrows, agreeable to the act of convention made thereanent.

The same day the committee having consider'd the petition of the burgh of Craill, they find the facts set forth in the sd. petition proven by the concurring declarations of the commissioners of St Andrews, Kilrenny, & Anstruther Easter, and therefor are of oppinion that the petitioners are well intituled to the aid of the next convention, and that the convention should give them their aid & assistance to the effect mentioned in the petition.

24 July 1744.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Hugh Hathorn and Edward Lothian; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Banf, Mr Alexr. Innes.

The petition of Selkirk delay'd and a remit to the agent anent the Duke of Douglas his titles.

The which day the committee having resumed the consideration of the petition of the magistrats of Selkirk, William Wauch, clerk of the said burgh, gave in a letter direct to the preses, sign'd by the baillies, dean of gild, and treasurer of the said burgh, of date the 14th currt., wherein they submitted and referred all and every one of the proceses presently depending before the court of session for or against them to the convention of royal burrows. Which being read, Mr Andrew Pringle, advocat, as doer for the other partys, represented that the proces against the said magistrats and council for refuseing to admit of two deacons and collegues, who were duly elected, into the councill had already come to a period before the court of session, by which decision the magistrats and council are ordain'd to receive them into the common council, and they are personally found lyable for the expence of the proces, soe that the town of Selkirk is free of the said expence, and therefor that it would be irregular for the committee of burrows to interpose in a matter that is already determined, or to

EDINBURGH. 24 July 1744.

The petition of Selkirk delay'd and a remit to the agent anent the Duke of Douglas his titles.

order money in support of the burgh, who is already freed of the expence. That as to the Duke of Douglas, his right of regality, it was what the committee could not well interfeir with, nor could they expect the duke would submit his privat right to them; and as to the *actio popularis* depending against the magistrats for misapplying the revenue of the burgh, he had hitherto got no powers from the partys pursuers to submit that question, but should write to them to know if they would submit it. Which being considered by the committee, they delay'd to give any oppinion as to the first untill the final issue of the proces before the court of session; as to the second, they appoint their agent to look into the Duke of Douglas his titles, and report his oppinion how far his Grace is founded in that action; and as to the third, they allow Mr Andrew Pringle to write to his constituents, and to report betwixt and Ffriday next if they intend to submit that matter.

27 July 1744.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Gawen Hamilton; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Culross, Mr Charles Erskin.

Selkirk's petition delay'd.

The which day Mr Andrew Pringle, advocat, presented a letter direct to the preses, subscrived by John Lang and other four of the trades and inhabitants of Selkirk, of date the twenty-sixth instant, wherein they declair their willingness to submit the *actio popularis* presently depending at their instance against the magistrats of the said burgh; but that as the majority of the prosecuters of the said action were absent, it was impossible for them to come to any final resolution in that matter soe as to bind their absent members, and therefor intreating the committee would indulge them with some furder time, till they should get all their trades and other prosecuters conveen'd. Which being considered by the committee, they delay'd the said affair till the first day of September next, and appoint the said prosecuters to declair their inclinations betwixt and that day if they are willing to submit the said action to the committee of burrows.

EDINBURGH. 3 September 1744.

Sederunt.

3 September 1744.

John Coutts, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn and Edward Lothian; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Baillie; Stranraer, James Fergushill; Selkirk, William Wauch.

The agent order'd to concurr wt. Selkirk in the *actio popularis.*

The which day the committee having taken under consideration the petition of the magistrats of Selkirk and their letter, wherein they are willing to submit all differences betwixt them and their contending partys to the determination of the committee, and the saids partys having faill'd to appear this day & submit the said differences, notwithstanding of the several dyets appointed by the committee for that end, therefor the committee appoint their agent to concurr with and assist the magistrats of Selkirk in the *actio popularis* carry'd on by said contending partys agt. them before the the court of session.

13 September 1744.

Sederunt.

John Coutts, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Hugh Hathorn and George Langlands; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Baillie; Stranraer, James Fergushill.

Letter to ye lords of the admiralty recommending the "Happy Janet" to be imploy'd in the government service.

The which day the annual committee of the royal burrows considering that application has formerly been made to the right honble. the lords of the admiralty for ships of war to be stationed on the coasts of North Britain to protect the trade, which their lordships have not yet appointed, and having considered certain proposalls made by Charles and Robert Falls, merchts., for themselves and the other owners of the "Happy Janet" of Dumbar to fitt her out to cruize betwixt St Abb's Head and the Murray Firth, and to convoy the trade betwixt London and the Ffirth of Forth, and being satisfyed that it will contribut a great deal to secure the coast agt. privateers and protect the trade, therefor they appoint their preses to write to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, and authorize him to make application in their name to the

lords of the admiralty to take the said ship into the government's service for the purposes abovementioned, and imploy her upon the coast in such a manner as to their lordships shall seem most propper.

EDINBURGH. 13 September 1744.

31 October 1744.

Archibald Stewart, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; the burgh of Edinburgh, George Langlands; Pearth, Robert Craigie, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat; Air, Andrew Huntar; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee elected Archibald Stewart, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

The same day the committee appoint their preses to transmit coppys to each royal burrow of the sixteenth act of the last general convention relative to the linnen manufacture of Great Britain & Ireland, and to desire the magistrats of each royal burgh to write to their representative in parliament in the most pressing manner, requesting them zealously and unanimously to countenance & support every measure that may have a tendency to promote and enlarge the said linnen manufactures in manner directed by the said act of convention; as also that they will recommend to their said representatives to cultivat a strict freindship with the West India proprietors which is so usefull to us, and to have a tender regaurd to the intrest of our collonys which are the great support of our manufactures.

Act anent the linnen manufactures to be printed & sent to each royal burrow.

The same day Archibald Tod, writer, craved the committee would take under their consideration a petition or memorial presented by him to the last general convention craving to be releived of his cautionry for Smart Tennent as staple factor at Camphire. Which memorial and the remit of the convention to the committee being read, they delay'd any proceeding therein untill their next meeting, that the baill bond granted by him may be at the same time under their consideration.

Archd. Tod's petn. delay'd.

The same day the preses acquainted the committee that several differences had arisen betwixt the magistrats and the council of the

The disputes anent the election in St Andrews to be submitted.

EDINBURGH. 31 October 1744.

The disputes anent the election in St Andrews to be submitted.

burgh of St Andrews in the matters of the late election of magistrats and office-bearers in the said burgh at Michaelmas last, and that by letters direct to him both partys seem to agree to referr their differences to the determination of the annual committee. Which being considered by them, they appoint their preses to write to the said partys to attend the committee upon the day of next, and to bring with them propper powers for submitting their said differences soe as to prevent all furder expence to either party.

15 November 1744.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn, preses, & George Langlands; Pearth, Robt. Craigie, Esqr., lord advocat; Air, Andrew Huntar; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham.

Act appointing regular convoys to be apply'd for.

The which day the conservator represented to the annual committee that the established and settled trade betwixt Scotland & the Netherlands is put to a great stand, and the merchants sustain not only great losses but disappointments in carrying on their businesses, not only to the Netherlands but to the staple port of Camphire, and all this occasioned for want of fixed and regular convoys to conduct and protect the trade from the Ffirth of Forth in Scotland to the coast of Holland; and thereupon moved that as this affected the trade of Scotland very sensibly, the annual committee would take the same under their serious consideration and fall upon the propperest method for procuring from the lords of the admiralty fixed and regular convoys for secureing and convoying the trade to and from the Netherlands.

The committee having considered the above representation, and being fully satisfyed of the truth of the fact therein set forth, are of oppinion for procureing fixed and regular convoys for the trade to and from the Netherlands would be by an application to the lords of the admiralty, and for facilitating thereof they doe recommend to their preses to write a letter to the Marquis of Tweddale, his Majestie's

EDINBURGH. 15 November 1744.

Act appointing regular convoys to be apply'd for.

secretary of state for Scottish affairs, to give his countenance and assistance in speedily carrying thorow an application of this kind so beneficial and necessary for the trade of the country; as also they recommend to their preses to give directions to their agent at London to meet and conferr with the deputy conservator there and conclude with him upon a propper application to be made to the commissioners of the admiralty for procureing such a certain and establish'd convoy, with an injunction to him also to lay the same application before the Lord Tweddale for his approbation and concurrance; and doe recommend to the conservator to write to his deput upon the premises. In consequence of which appointment the preses wrote the following letter to the most noble the Marquiss of Tweddal, one of his Majestie's prinle. secretarys of state.

Letter to the most honble. the Marquiss of Tweddale.

My lord,—The merchants who have imploy'd their stocks in promoteing a trade betwixt Scotland and the Netherlands, and particularly to the staple port at Campvere where the merchants of Scotland have some peculiar priviledges, having represented to the annual committee of royal burrows the great emberassment the trade has lyen under since commencement of the warr for want of fixed & regular convoys for securing and conducting the trade of this country to and from the Netherlands, and the annual committee having considered that no particular application has hitherto been made to the commissioners of admiralty for a particular convoy to this trade, or incase the same has been made, the directions these convoys have received have not answered the ends proposed, they therefor have recommended to me to desire your lordship's countenance & concurrence in procureing from the commissioners of the admiralty a fixed & regular convoy for the trade to the Netherlands, so beneficial to this nation; and I am furder directed to beg that your lordship will permit our agent at London, Mr Willm. Hamilton, to wait of your lordship and lay before yow the state of the trade, with the application to be made to the commissioners of the admiralty for protecting of the same, in order to have your lordship's approbation, not only of the way and manner of applying, but your countenance and

EDINBURGH. 15 November 1744.

Letter to the most honble. the Marquiss of Tweddale.

assistance in procureing this protection so much wanted with all convenient speed.

This being my instructions from the committee, I shall not trouble your lordship further than to assure your lordship that I have the honour to be with great respect, my lord, your lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,

Edr.—Sign'd in presence and by order of the annual committee. *Sic subtr.*, Hugh Hathorn, preses.

Follows the letter to Mr Willm. Hamilton.

Letter to Mr Wm. Hamilton.

Sr.—The annual committee of the royal burrows having upon the complaints of several merchants frequenting the Netherlands, as represented by the conservator of the Scots staple of the Netherlands, did by their resolution of the 15th instant authorize me to recommend to yow to meet and conferr with Mr Charles Stewart, deputy conservator at London, who has received directions from the conservator to give yow an accott. of the trade and furnish yow with matterials for drawing up a propper application to the commissioners of admiralty for procuring a convoy at such fixed and stated times as yow and Mr Stewart shall agree to be most convenient for the trade; and in order to facilitat the matter, as application has been made to my Lord Tweddal, it is recommended to yow also to wait of his lordship along with Mr Stewart and lay before him the present state of the trade with the scrol of the application to the commissioners of the admiralty, and to follow what directions his lordship shall be pleased to give about procureing a speedy delivery from the commissioners of admiralty to the application.

The conservator is to write to Mr Stewart to wait of yow for that purpose.—I am, sir, your most humble servant,

Sign'd by order of the annual committee, Edinr., 15th Nover. 1744. *Sic subtr.*, Hugh Hathorn, preses.

Remit to ye conservator anent Archd. Tod baill bond.

The same day the committee having considered the remit of the convention as to Mr Tod of Blackhill, representing that he was bound as

one of the cautioners of Smart Tennent, staple factor, and desired he might be liberat from his cautionry, they remit to the conservator to write Mr Tennent to find new caution.

EDINBURGH. 15 November 1744.

The same day the committee appoint Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild, preses this day chosen, to sign the letters directed to be wrote by last day's minuts to the contending partys in St Andrews, in absence of the lord provost of Edinbr., and accordingly letters were sign'd to Willm. Douglas of Glenbervie, provost of St Andrews, and to John Loch and Robert Greg, merchts. in St Andrews, to attend the committee on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh instant.

Appointment of D.G. Hathorn to sign last day's letters.

The same day the committee having taken into consideration the remit of the last general convention concerning Hutson, late provost of Aberbrothock, craving to be made keeper of the conserjary house at Campvere in place of Moncreiff, former keeper of the said house, deceast, and the committee having heard the conservator thereanent, who produced a certificat under the hand of the merchants, ffactors, and shipmasters resideing at that place, all declairing that the relict of the sd. Moncreiff keept up the said house in a verry net clean way, and her intertainment was both good and reasonable, and the committee being thereby fully satisfyed with her good behaviour, doe therefor continue the said Mrs Moncreiff in the possession of the said house dureing the convention's pleasure.

The widow of Mr Moncreiff continued in ye conserjary house.

27 November 1744.

Edr., Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, George Langlands; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Culross, Mr Charles Erskin; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Anstr. Easter, Andr. Johnstoun.

Sederunt.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that according to their appointment he had wrote to Willm. Douglas of Glenbervie, Esqr., provost of St Andrews, and to John Loch & Robt. Greg, merchts. in the said burrow to attend the committee this day and to bring with

The dispute concerning the late election in St Andrews delay'd.

EDINBURGH. 27 November 1744.

The dispute concerning the late election in St Andrews delay'd.

them propper powers from their respective partys for submitting all differences relative to the last election of magistrats & councillors in the said burgh; and accordingly they being called, compeared the said William Douglas of Glenbervie and produced a letter directed to him as provost of St Andrews, of date the twenty-fourth of November currant, subscrived by John Halkerston, Andrew Meason, Andrew Williamson, John Oliphant, Archibald Duncan, William Landale, Lewis Douglas, Robert Douglas, Thomas Oliphant, Thomas Buddo, John Gourlay, John Carstairs, Robert Burn, & Peter Douglas, all councillors of the said burrow, wherein they declair their willingness to have all differences betwixt them and their contending partys finally determined by the present annual committee of burrows, and gave full power and commission to the said Willm. Douglas, provost, to submit and referr the same, and particularly to referr the proces of declarator and all questions thereanent, to the committee; which letter being read he, the said William Douglas, declaired he was then ready & willing both for himself and the other councillors abovenamed to submit the same accordingly, and incase the other partys should decline the same he craved that the burrows would appoint their agent to concurr with him and his adherents in defending the aforsaid proces of declarator as is the usual practise of the burrows in such cases: as also compeared John Loch, mercht., and James Thomson, present deacon conveener of the trades of the said burgh of St Andrews, and produced a commission granted to them by several councillors and inhabitants in the said burgh impowering them also to submit their said differences to the annual committee of burrows, provideing the same was finally determined betwixt the day of next; which being also read, the said John Loch said that he understood the committee of burrows had only consisted of ten or twelve of the prinle. burrows to whom he would have willingly submitted, but that as he now understands the committee consists of the haill members of the last convention, he choised to advise with his constituents whether to submit the same to them or to the next general

convention, and for that end he craved some furder time might be allowed him by the committee to get full powers and instructions thereanent, and declaired he should not insist in the proces of declarator untill that time. Which being considered by the committee, they delayed the consideration of these matters untill the fifteen day of January next, that betwixt and that time the said John Loch might get full power & instructions from his constituents what to doe in the said matters.

EDINBURGH. 27 November 1744.

The dispute concerning the late election in St Andrews delay'd.

18 December 1744.

Edinbr., Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild, preses; Edr., George Langlands; Air, Mr Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Cullen, Mr James Philp.

Sederunt.

The which day Mr John Cunningham, advocat, presented a petition in name of himself as provost, and Adam Turnbull, eldest baillie of Innerkeithing, Andrew Turnbull, treasurer of the said burgh, and other councillors and deacons complaining of several illegal proceedings in the late election of the magistrats and councillors of the said burgh at Michaelmas last, and particularly that some justices of peace by the assistance of Hugh Grindiston, then eldest baillie of the said burgh, had assumed a power to apprehend four deacons of crafts and stop them from entering the council, soe as to prevent their giving their votes in the said election, contrary to their right & priviledge, and which illegal practise is subversive of the rights and freedom of election in the haill royal burrows. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their clerk to send a coppy of the said petition to the said Hugh Grindiston, baillie of Innerkeithing, and to desire him to attend the committee upon the fifteenth day of January next and make answer to the petition at that time.

Complaint, Mr John Cunningham, &, agt. Sr. Robert Henderson,&.

The same day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr Willm. Hamilton, their agent at London.

EDINBURGH. 18 December 1744.

Which being read, the committee appoint the same to be recorded, and of which the tenor ffollows:—

Letter from Mr Willm. Hamilton.

Sr.—I have the favour of yours of the 17th, the recept whereof I would have acknowledged sooner, but was in expectation Mr Stewart, the gentleman yow mention, would have call'd upon me, for I did not know where to meet with him; but I received a letter yesterday from one Mr Walkden of Gray's Inn, acquainting me Mr Stewart is not yet arived from Holland, but as he waited only for a fair wind he was expected every minut, and upon his arrival would call of me; I give yow therefor the trouble of this, that so nothing may be imputed to me for not giveing yow an earlier answer to your letter. Whenever I have the pleasure of meeting Mr Stewart I will take care in concert wt. him to prepare a propper memorial agreeable to the facts he will furnish me with, and pursue the several other directions the committee of the royal burrows are pleased to give, and shall take the first opportunity of acquainting yow with the steps that shall be taken. I am, sr., your most humble servant, *sic subscribitur*, Will. Hamilton. Directed to Hugh Hathorn, Esqr., at his house in Edr.

15 January 1745.

Sederunt.

Hugh Hathorn, dean of gild of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., George Langlands; Inverness, John Baillie; Selkirk, Willm. Wauch; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran.

Mr John Cunningham's petn. delay'd.

The which day John Johnstoun, burrow officer, gave in an execution under his hand bearing that he had upon the eighteenth of December last served Hugh Grindistoun, late baillie of Inverkeithing, with a coppy of the petition given in by Mr John Cunningham, advocat, and the other persons therein named against him, and had warned him to attend with his answers thereto against this day; and the said partys being called, the clerk exhibited answers to the said petition which had been lodged in his hand by Sr. Robert Henderson of Fordell, barronet, present provost of Inverkeithing, Baillie Grundiston, eldest baillie, and the remanent baillies, treasurer, dean of gild, and council of the said burgh. Which

being read but neither of the partys compearing, the committee delay'd the furder consideration of the said petition and answers untill their next meeting. EDINBURGH. 15 January 1745.

The same day the committee also delay'd the consideration of the contraversies betwixt James Ferny, late dean of gild of St Andrews, & the partys adhereing to him, and William Douglas of Glenbervie, present provost of St Andrews, relative to the late election of magistrats in the said burgh, in respect the partys were not present. St Andrews election delay'd.

14 February 1745.

Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, George Langlands & Gawen Hamilton; Inverness, John Baillie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Air, Andrew Hunter. Sederunt.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from the most honble. John, Marquiss of Tweddale, one of his Majestie's prinle. secretarys of state, in answer to the committee's letter of the 17th of November last. Which being read, the committee appoint the same to be recorded in the burrow books, and of which the tenor follows :—

Whitehall, 26th January 1744/5.

Sr.—I received yours of the 17th of November, wrote by order and in name of the annual committee of the royal burrows, desireing my countenance and concurrance for a fixt and regular convoy for the trade of Scotland to the Netherlands; yow likewise acquainted me that Mr William Hamilton, agent for the royal burrows at London, was directed to wait upon me and lay before me the state of the trade, with a coppy of the application intended to be made to the lords commissioners of the admiralty. Last Thursday, and no sooner, Mr Charles Stewart, deputy conservator, gave me a coppy of the petition to the lords of the admiralty, which I desired might be forthwith presented,

EDINBURGH. 14 February 1745.

and I have already recommended it to the Duke of Bedfoord, nor doe I make the least doubt but the lords of the admiralty will doe all that is in their power for answering the desire of the petition.

I hope I need not assure yow that I shall be glad of every opportunity to make use of any influence I may happen to have towards procuring safety and protection to the trade of Scotland.—I am, with great regaurd, sr., your most humble servant,

Sic subscribitur,

To Hugh Hathorn, Esqr., at Edr. Tweeddale.

The same day there was a petition given in for and in name of Robert Bruce of Grange Muir, provost, John Birrel, saillor, and John Haigie, brewar, baillies, being the present magistrats of Kinghorn, and Robert Hamilton, senior, late provost there, complaining that David Gilchrist, shipmaster and late baillie, David Herd, writer, late treasurer, with David Sibbald, shipmaster, and others, their accomplices had, upon the twenty-third and twenty-fourth days of January last, in a ryotous and tumultuous manner insulted the then present magistrats of the said burrow, and had convocat a mob and thrown stones and others at the said magistrats upon the day immediatly preceeding the twenty-fifth of January, which was appointed for electing a delegat in the said burrow, with ane evident intention to dissappoint the said election, and therefor craving the concurrance of the convention against the said offenders. Which being read, compeared the said David Gilchrist and craved to be allowed to see and answer the forsaid petition, which the committee accordingly granted, and assign'd the twenty-eighth instant for that effect.

28 February 1745.

Sederunt.

Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Baillie Gawin Hamilton and George Langlands; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet.

EDINBURGH. 28 February 1745.

The which day the committee having resumed the consideration of the petition and complaint of Robert Bruce of Grangmuir, provost, and of the other baillies of Kinghorn, and Robert Hamilton, late provost thereof, against David Gilchrist, ship master there, & others, but no answers having been given in by the said David Gilchrist, the committee appoint him and the others complain'd of to give in their answers to the said petition on or before the eight day of March next, to the end the same may be considered at the next meeting of the committee; and also they delay'd the petition or complaint of John Cunningham, late provost of Inverkeithing, untill the proof allow'd by the Lords of Session in that matter be finished.

The same day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr William Hamilton, agent to the royal burrows at London, concerning the application made to the lords of the admiralty for regular convoys betwixt London and Holland and for the trade betwixt Scotland and London, together with the coppy of a petition which had been presented to the lords of admiralty for the said convoys, and the coppy of a letter from Thomas Corbet, secretary to the lords of the admiralty, in answer to the said petition, of all which the tenor follows:—

Mr Hamilton's Letter.

Sr.,—By my last some time ago I acquainted yow that Mr Stewart from Campvere was not arrived, but as he landed soon after, he & I have had several conferences together, and from the account I had of the trade from Scotland to Campvere and other circumstances prepared a petition in the name of the committee of the royal burrows to the lords of the admiralty. I communicated that petition to the provost of Edinburgh and several others of the members from Scotland, but upon consideration it was thought most advisable that the petition should not be restrain'd to the trade to Holland but extend also to that to London; accordingly the petition was varry'd, and on Munday last I waited upon the board and delivered it, the provost of Edinbr. and several other of the members from Scotland being so good as to attend the board at the

EDINBURGH. 28 February 1745.

same time. Inclosed I send yow a coppy of the petition. After waiting some time we were call'd in, and their lordships were pleased to say what was apply'd for was extremely reasonable and they would give the propper directions accordingly; and yesterday I received a letter from Mr Corbet, the secretary, desiring to know when the royal burrows would want a convoy for their trade from the Nore to Scotland, a coppy of which letter I send also inclosed and have communicated it to the provost of Edinbr. I have write to Mr Corbet that when I receive any directions from the royal burrows I would doe myself the pleasure of waiting of him with them, and that I would write to Scotland this post for directions. Thus have I comply'd with the commands I received, and I flatter myself the committee will approve of the steps that have been taken, and whatever directions the committee are pleased to favour me with shall be carefully obeyed by, sr., your most humble servt., *Sic subtr.,*

Lincoln's Inn, 21 Ffebry. 1744/5. Will. Hamilton.

Follows the petition to the Admiralty.

To the Rt. Honble. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the humble petition of the committee of the convention of the royal burroughs of Scotland,

Sheweth—

That the trade from the north and eastern coasts of Scotland to Campvere in Zealand is a trade of the greatest importance to that part of the United Kingdom, as by virtue of an ancient agreemt. betwixt the royal burrows of Scotland and the magistrats of Campvere, all goods and merchandize of the grouth and manufacture of Scotland imported from thence to Campvere are exempted from the payment of any duty to the states.

That in virtue of this agreement and priviledge, which has ever been religiously observed and still subsists in the utmost force, the trade from Scotland to Zealand is verry considerable, and their annual imports to Campvere before the war did usually amount to 200,000 lit., but

since that time doe not amount to above half of that sum, notwithstanding that the demand for these goods and manufactures is as great there now if not greater than in the time of peace.

EDINBURGH. 28 February 1745.

This the royal burroughs are apprehensive has been occasioned by the want of regular convoys for the trade from Scotland to Campvere, and as the like prejudice has also happen'd in some degree to the trade from Scotland to London, they humbly intreat your lordships that directions may be given for the future for propper regular convoys to protect the said two trades.

Your petitioners are extremely sensible of the various publick services which demand your lordships' attention, and the various branches of trade which equally claim protection, they therefor presume to lay before your lordships the manner in which they apprehend the trade from Scotland to Holland, Zealand, and the port of London may be safely convoy'd with the smallest number of ships possible.

That three twenty-gun ships or sloops as your lordships shall please to direct, constantly imploy'd, appear to your petitioners to be the smallest number this service can possibly take; that such ships or sloops should every two moneths, or at such stated times as your lordships shall think fitt, assemble the whole trade of the east coast of Scotland in Leith road, one of the said ships before she runs up the Firth of Forth going as far north as Aberdeen to receive the trade of that place, which is generally of considerable value.

That the whole fleet, which is judged every two moneths will consist of thirty or fourty ships from Scotland alone, should proceed from Leith to Yarmouth roads, taking up by the way the trade of Berwick, New Castle, & Hull.

That at Yarmouth the fleet should seperat, the trade for London proceeding under the convoy of one of the ships of war, and the trade for Holland and Zealand under that of the other two.

That the convoy for Rotterdam and Zealand should first see the trade for Rotterdam in safety and proceed with the rest of the trade to Campvere, where waiting two or three days one of the ships of war

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shall return to Scotland with such ships as are found ready or can be got ready in that time, dropping by the way the ships bound for the north of England; the other may return to Yarmouth there to wait the convoy from London, which may proceed from thence according as the trade requires & your lops. direct.

In this manner and with this number of ships it is conceived that the north country trade to London, Holland, and Zealand may be sufficiently secured, which your petitioners have therefor presumed to lay before your lordships, humbly submitting the whole to your lordships consideration.

Admiralty Office, 20 Ffebry. 1744/5.

Sir—I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to desire yow will let them know when the royal burghs of Scotland will want a convoy for their trade from the Nore to Scotland.—I am, sir, your verry humble servant,

Sic subscribitur,

To Mr William Hamilton at Lincoln's Inn. Tho. Corbett.

Which being read, the committee appoint their preses to write to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, to apply to the lords of the admiralty without loss of time for a convoy to the trade from the Nore to Scotland, they being inform'd that there are a great many ships lying there for a convoy; and as the committee doe approve of his proceedings in the application formerly made, soe they desire he would continue his applications for regular convoys every two moneths, which would be much more usefull to the trade, as the merchts. would take care to have their ships loaded and ready to saill at the times appointed. Which letter was wrote by the preses accordingly.

19 April 1745.

Sederunt.

Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Gawen Hamilton & George Langlands; Inverness, John Baillie; King-

horn, Robert Hamilton; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Cullen, Mr James Philp. EDINBURGH. 19 April 1745.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that how soon the "Fox" man of war and "Hazard" sloop with the "Happy Janet," an arm'd vessell, arrived in this road, he had wrote to the burghs of Aberdeen, Montrose, Dundee, and Aberbrothock, acquainting them of it, and desireing that they would send here such vessells belonging to their towns as intended for Rotterdam, Zealand, or any other port betwixt this and Ostend, and the captain of the "Fox" man of war would take them under his protection.

That he had received two letters from the magistrats of Aberdeen, both of the 15th instant, desireing a convoy might be sent to Aberdeen to bring up the merchant ships that lay there fully loaded with merchandize to a great value. Which letters being read, and the committee finding that while the capt. of the "Fox" man of war remain'd in Leith road the capt. of the "Hazard" sloop was to take his directions & sailling orders from him, they therefor appoint their preses to write to the capt. of the "Fox" man of war to give orders to the capt. of the "Hazard" sloop to saill with all possible dispatch to Aberdeen to bring up the trade from thence to Leith road, and if the capt. did comply therewith, that he would write to the forenamed towns acquainting them with it. Which letters were wrote by the preses accordingly.

6 June 1745.

Hugh Hathorn, late dean of gild of Edinbr. preses; Edinbr., Baillie Gawen Hamilton and George Langlands; Pearth, Robt. Craigie, Esqr., lord advocat; Inverness, John Baillie; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham. Sederunt.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that Captain Baver of the "Fox" man of war, now lying in the road of Leith, had notify'd to him that he was to take his directions in his next voyage

EDINBURGH. 6 June 1745.

from the committee, and that if it was agreeable to them he, with the "Hazard" sloop, would take the fleet now ready to saill for London and Holland under his convoy, and when they came to Orfoordness he would goe with the transports and trade for Holland, and the "Hazard" sloop would goe with those for the Nore, that he would take the "Happy Janet" alongst with him as far as Flamburrowhead, and from thence she was to return and cruize betwixt the Firth of Forth and the Murray Firth. Which being considered by the committee, they approve thereof and appoint their preses to give directions accordingly.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

2 July 1745.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1745. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thomas Allan and James Norie; Pearth, James Crie; Dundie, Alexander Duncan; Aberdeen, James Morison; Stirling, William Chrystie; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Air, John Campbell; Hadington, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, James Abercrombie; Kirkaldie, James Barclay; Montrose, George Murison; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Ansr. Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, Duncan Forbes; Bruntisland, John Haxtoun; Innerkeithing, Sr. Robert Henderson; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, James Bogle; Jedburgh, John Ainsley; Kirkudbright, William Gordon; Pittenweem, George Clelland; Dumferling, Thomas Scotland; Anstruther Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Thomas Laurie; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, John Pollock; Lanerk, William Wild; Aberbrothock, John Allan; Elgin, Mr Willm. Forbes; Peebles, James Halden; Craill, Robert Clelland; Tain, John Davidson; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Banf, James Innes; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; Northberwick, John M'Kenzie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, William Romanus; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Annan, William Hardy; Lochmabin, Willm. Maxwell; Sanquhar, John Crighton; Queensferry, Archibald Stewart; Kintoir, Robert Bruce;

Inverurie, William Bruce; Wick, George Sinclair; Kirkwall, John Riddoch; (fifteen burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1745. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected Archibald Stewart, Esquire, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this present convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, and qualify'd himself to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Air, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, Bruntisland, Brechin, Irving, Selkirk, Dumbar, Culross, & Banff as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence they approve of the said commissions; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not qualify'd formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Thomas Allan and James Norie, commissioners for Edinburgh; Alexander Duncan, commissioner for Dundee; William Gordon, assessor for Aberdeen; George Murdoch, assessor for Glasgow; John Finlayson, assessor for Stirling; John Mann, commissioner for Aberbrothock; John M'Kenzie, commissioner for North Berwick; William Hardie, commissioner for Annan; and John Riddoch, commissioner for Kirkwall, & George Lauder, assessor.

Committee to revise the commns.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

2d art. of the missive read.

4. The same day David Flint, secretary to the trustees for improving fisherys and manufactures, gave in a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last, as also George Innes, clerk to Mr Allan Whitefoord, general receiver, gave in the accompts of the payments made by him in consequence of the

Trustees' report presented.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1745.

Trustees' report presented.

trustees' orders for the year preceeding the twenty-fifth of December last, both which were ordered to lye upon the tables for the perusall of the members.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Report of the committee on the commissions.

5. The committee appointed to revise the commissions presented to this general convention reported that they having heard & considered the commissions for the burghs of Dysert, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Kinghorn, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Pittenweem, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Peebles, Craill, Ruthglen, North Berwick, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Queensferry, Kintore, Inverury, Kirkwall, Inverkeithing, Whithorn, Inverbervie, and Stranraer, were of oppinion the whole of the said commissions should be sustain'd both as to commissioners and assessors except the commissions from Stranraer and Inverkeithing, which they were of oppinion should not be sustain'd in regaurd the commissions doe not bear the commissions to be qualifyed in the terms of the platform; as also excepting the commissions to Whithorn and Inverbervie, which they are of oppinion should not be sustain'd unless the commissioners depone upon the verity of their qualifications; but were of oppinion that the commission given to the burgh of Inverkeithing should be sustain'd as to the assessor therein named.

Commissions approven.

6. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Sanquhar, Wick, and Inverness, they approved of the said commissions from Sanquhar and Inverness, but delay'd the consideration of the commission from Wick untill their next dyet.

Annual committee's proceedings approven.

7. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve thereof.

Agent to pay to Mr Wm. Hamilton £18, 12s. sterl.

8. The same day the convention having considered ane accompt due to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, amounting to the sum of thirteen pounds seven shillings sterl., together with a blank article to his clerk, which the convention appointed to be fill'd up with the sum of

five pound five shillings sterl., and appoint their agent to pay the same, amounting to the sum of eighteen pounds twelve shillings sterling.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1745.

9. The same day the agent having presented his accompts, the convention remit the same to the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Pearth, Montrose, Linlithgow, Air, and Inverness to consider the sd. accompts and report.

Agent's accotts. committed

10. The same day the preses presented to the convention the accompts relative to the linnen bill, with ane accompt of the preceeding year respecting the attempt to raise the subsidy by a tax on linnen, both which accompts the convention remit to the committee on the agent's accompts and appoint them to report.

Charge on the linnen bill committed.

11. The same day the convention having heard their agent's report anent the declineing state of the burgh of Lymekilns, they appoint him to assign the said burgh to the unfree trade of the towns of Tory and Toryburn mentioned in the report.

Agent to assign to Limekilns the unfree trade of Tory & Toryburn.

12. The same day the convention having heard their agent's report anent the case of the regality of Kilwinning, they approve thereof, and refuse to comply with the desire of the said regality claiming a liberation from payment of all taxes in time comeing.

Report anent Kilwinning.

13. The same day the convention having heard the petition of the burgh of Craill praying for the aid of the convention to enable them to repair their harbour and carry on some law suits in which they are necessarly ingaged, together with a report of the annuall committee of the last convention setting furth that the petitioners appear to be well intitled to the aid of the royal burrows, they remit the said petition and report to the consideration of the committee on the agent's accompts.

Report anent Craill committed.

14. The same day the convention having heard read a submission betwixt William Douglas, Esqr., present provost of St Andrews, & others on the one part, and James Fairnie, late dean of gild there, &ca., on the other part, they remit the same with all papers relative thereto and lodged in their clerk's hands to the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow,

Committee appointed to determine the contraversys bet. Wm. Douglas, provt., and the contending partys in St Andrews.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1745.

Committee appointed to determine the contraversys bet. Wm. Douglas, provt., and the contending partys in St Andrews.

Montrose, Selkirk, Pearth, Linlithgow, Cullen, Aberdeen, Dumfreise, Stirling, Dundee, Queensferry, Air, and Inverkeithing, with special power to the said committee, whereof five to be a quorum, Edinburgh being always one, to take in, consider, and finally determine with regaurd to the differences contain'd in the said submission betwixt and the twentyeth current; and the convention appoint the said committee to have their first meeting on Friday, the fifth currant, at ten o'cloak forenoon, in this place, with power to them to adjourn to such times and places as they shall judge most convenient.

Prestonpans' petn. remit to the annl. committee.

15. The same day the convention having considered a petition for the town of Prestonpans, they remit the same to the annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Recommendation in favours of four staple factors at Campvere.

16. The same day the convention having considered the petitions of James Turin and Smart Tennent, staple factors at Campvere, and John Forbes and William Middleton, merchants, burgeses of Aberdeen, praying that the convention would be pleased to desire the magistrats of Campvere to use their influence with the magistrats of Middelburg to cause a speedy decision to be made in two several processes depending at the petitioners instance before them for payment of the premium of ensurance of two ships belonging to them that were lost, did recommend to the honble. Archibald Stewart, their preses, to write in their name to the magistrats of Campvere to the effect craved by the petitioners.

3 July 1745.

Commissions approven.

17. The which day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Hadingtoun to Andrew Dickson, and a commission from the burgh of Tayne to John Davidson of Whithouse, they approve of the said commissions.

Agent to pay to Provost Stewart £132, 10s. 6d. sterl. for the charge of th linnen bills.

18. The same day the committee on the agent's accompts reported that they having considered ane accompt of the money disbursed in procureing the bills for increasing the bounty on British and Irish linnens,

&ca., were of oppinion that the convention should appoint their agent to make payment to the Honble. Archibald Stewart, Esqr., their preses, of the sum of one hundred and thirty-two pounds ten shillings and six pence sterl. in full of their proportion of the said accompt upon a propper discharge; and were furder of oppinion that the convention should recommend to their preses to get from Mr Sharp an account in what manner the fifty pounds sterling specifyed in the third article of the said accompt hath been debursed, and to receive from him any ballance that may be still in his hands upon his recept, Mr Stewart being accomptable to the convention for what he shall soe receive. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to pay the said sum accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1745. Agent to pay to Provost Stewart £132, 10s. 6d. sterl. for the charge of the linnen bills.

19. The same day the committee on the missive & agent's accompts reported that they were of oppinion that the convention in their own name and in name of their constituents should make their gratefull acknowledgments to the honble. and worthy gentleman, the lord provost of Edinburgh and preses to this convention, for the faithfull and diligent discharge of his duty in parliament, and promoteing the interest of the country and particularly that of the royal burrows on all occasions; which was done accordingly.

The convention gave their thanks to Provt. Stewart for his service in parliat.

[20. Agent's accott. of the unfree trade audited. 21. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited.]

22. The same day the convention having heard a memorial & petition for the burgh of Jedburgh, craving the aid of the burrows for the several purposes therein mentioned, they remit the same to the annual committee, and they to report their oppinion thereanent to the next convention.

Petn. for Jedburgh remit to the annl. committee.

23. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Innerkeithing to Sr. Robert Monro of Fordell, they approve thereof, and he being present did qualify himself by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, & subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Commn. for Innerkeithing approven.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1745.

Agent to concurr with Kirkwall agt. the unfree traders in Stromness.

24. The same day the convention having heard a petition for the burgh of Kirkwall craving an abatement of their proportion of the tax roll, and for releif as to the unfree traders within their district, the convention authorize the petitioners to prosecute the unfree traders in Stromness and other places mentioned in the petition for their unfree trade, and appoint their agent to concurr with them in the said prosecution.

James Nasmyth & Geo. Lindsay elected conjunct dept. clerks.

25. The same day a demission by James Nasmyth, deput clerk to the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland, of his office of deput clerk was presented and read, which demission the convention accepted of and thereupon unanimously elected and made choise of the said James Nasmyth and George Lindsay, conjunct deputy clerks of the city of Edinburgh, dureing all the days of their lives and during the life of the longest liver of them two, to be deputy clerks of the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland, and give, grant, and dispone to them and longest liver of them the haill fees, sallarys, perquisits, and priviledges of the said office formerly enjoyed by the said James Nasmyth, or which to the office of deput clerk by the laws and custom of Scotland does or is known to appertain; whereupon compeared the said George Lindsay and accepted of the said office, gave his oath *de fideli*, and was qualifyed by swearing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance to his Majesty King George the Second.

Articles of the missive continued as heads of the next missive.

26. The same day the committee on the missive having read over and seriously considered the same article by article, reported they were of oppinion that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eight, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelveth, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, and sixteen articles of the missive should be continued as heads and articles of the next general missive, and that the tax roll as it now stands should be continued for one year untill July next; and were also of oppinion that it should be recommended to the annual committee to write to each burgh one moneth at least before the sitting down of the next conven-

tion more exactly to observe the seventh article of the missive by sending up to the next convention with their commissioner exact lists of the whole unfree traders within their bounds, to the end they may be prosecut as the law directs. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and continue the several heads of the missive & tax roll accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1745.

Articles of the missive continued as heads of the next missive.

27. The same day there was a petition presented by the magistrats of Dysert craving liberty to dispone to William Nucle two peices of their muir to be holden of the Lord Sinclair for payment of four shilling Scots yearly as a part of the haill few payable by the burgh to his lordship. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee with power to them to authorize the petitioners to sell and dispone the lands and ground mentioned in the petition or not as they shall see cause.

Petn. for the magistrats of Dysert remit to the annl. committee.

28. The same day the agent presented a list of the burghs in arrear for missive dues, whereof the tenor follows:—

. . . . . .

29. The same day the convention having heard a petition for the magistrats and councillors of Selkirk complaining of several disorderly practises by the deacon conveener and the other trades in the said burgh, they remit the same to the annual committee, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Petn. for Selkirk remit to the annl. committee.

30. The same day the convention remit to the committee on the agent's accompts to consider the sallarys and others upon the establishment, and also the memorial queries and answers by the lord advocat and Mr James Graham of Airth, & to report.

Committee to consider the establishmt.

Eod. die post meridiem.

31. The convention upon report of the committee appointed to consider the sallarys and others upon the establishment, appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pound sterling of

Agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1745.

Agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys.

sallary; to the agent, ffifty pound sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterling of sallary; to Robert Craigie, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, conservator, ffifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners & trustees for improvemt. of manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to the said David Flint, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pounds sterling; to Mr William Hamilton, agent at London, twenty-five pounds sterling of sallary; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to James Nasmyth and George Lindsay, deput clerks, twenty pound sterl. of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, for sallary & writings, thirty pounds sterling; to the burrow officer, twenty pounds sterling of sallary, and four pound sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble, and a guinea for his expences in the burrows' affairs; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, sixty pounds Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to the gardner of Heriot's hospital, twelve pound Scots for fflowers; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pounds Scots; & to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pounds Scots of supply yearly during her life.

Annl. committee to consider the new dutys of consulage upon ships trading to Norway.

32. The same day the commissioner for Aberdeen represented that an exaction is now laid on all ships trading to Norway of no less than eight dollars on each vessell of one hundred tun burden under the name of consulage; that as there is treatys of commerce subsisting betwixt Great Britain & the crown of Denmark and Norway, it was fitt to enquire whether this new imposition was a contravention of these treatys, and did move the convention to remit to the annual committee to make propper inquiry about this matter. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause, and recommend to the several burrows to send up to the committee certificats that such exactions are made.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1745.

Agent to pay to Craill £25 toward repairing their harbour.

33. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Craill, which had been by last year's convention remit to the annual committee, with the committee's report thereupon, and a condescendance given in for the said burgh of what it will coast to repair and make commodious their harbour, &ca., and having duely considered the same, they authorize and appoint their agent to pay to the said burgh for the ends and uses mentioned in the said petition and condescendance the sum of twenty-five pounds sterling, upon the burgh of Craill bringing evidence by certificats under the hands of the burghs of St Andrews, Kilrenny, Anstruther Easter, Pittenweem, and Anstruther Wester, or any two of them, St Andrews being always one, that the said harbour is sufficiently repair'd and made commodious.

The burrows to discourage smugling.

34. The same day the convention recommend to the haill royal burrows to doe all that in them lyes to discourage smugling, and appoints the commissioners to the next convention to report what dilligence they have used to prevent smugling.

Petn. & complt., John Cunningham, late provost of Inverkeithing, remit to the annl. committee.

35. The same day there was a petition presented by Mr John Cunningham, advocat, late provost of Inverkeithing, complaining of some illegal practises used by the eldest baillie of the said burgh, supported by justices of peace and others, in the last election of magistrats in the said burgh. Which being considered by the convention, they are of oppinion that any justices of peace interfeiring or meddling in elections within burgh is illegal and unwarrantable, and contrary to the priviledge of the royal burrows, especially where the magistrats of the said burgh are present, and that burgeses within burgh ought in the first instance to apply to the magistrats of the burgh to keep the peace within the same before application be made to any justice of peace; and remit the petition to the annual committee with power to them to order the agent to concurr with the petitioner in the proces mentioned in the petition against the justices of peace and Baillie Grindiston complained of, if the allegations set forth in the petition shall appear to them to be of verity.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1745.

4 July 1745.

Comm. for Elgin approven.

36. The which day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Elgine to Mr Willm. Forbes, they approve of the sd. commission.

Annl. committee to consider what is propper to be done wt. respect to the cess of the burghs of barrony & regality.

37. The same day the committee appointed to consider of the memorial drawn up by the agent anent levying the proportion of the cess payable for the unfree trade, reported that they having accordingly considered the same and the queries subjoin'd thereto, with answers made to the same by Mr James Graham, advocat, and having advised with the lord advocat thereanent, were of oppinion that it should be remitted to the annual committee to frame and draw up by advice of the lord advocat, and such other lawiers as they shall imploy, a propper clause to be brought into the land tax bill which will render the levying of the tax upon the unfree trade effectual; and that it be recommended to each burgh after converseing with their brethern to transmit as soon as possible their oppinion upon this subject and what observations occur to them with respect to the said propper clause, & that the committee should thereafter write to the great burrows and to each district and transmit to them a coppy of the clause to be framed, to the end they may return such observes as may occur to them on the said clause against the first day of November next, to be then considered by the committee; and that it be recommended to the burrows to write to their several representatives and use their endeavours to prevaill with them to procure the clause soe to be framed to be ingrost in the said land tax bill which will be past next session of parliament; and that the said memorial, queries, and answers should be recorded in the books of the convention after the riseing of the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report, and appoint the burrows and their annual committee to proceed accordingly.

The preses to return thanks to the lords of ye admiralty for yr. care of ye trade.

38. The same day the convention recommend to their preses to write to the lords commissioners of his Majestie's admiralty in name of the convention, thanking their lordships for the care they have hitherto

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1745.

The preses to return thanks to the lords of ye admiralty for yr. care of ye trade.

taken of the trade of this part of the island, praying for more frequent and regular convoys to and from the East Firth, and that they will continue to protect in the most effectual manner the commercial intrests of every part of this country, and that their lordships would appoint protections to those imploy'd about fishing on the east and west coasts from all manner of impresses dureing the season, as have been formerly granted.

Absent burghs fyned.

39. The same day the convention fyne and amerciat the burghs of Wigtoun, Rothesay, Nairn, New Gallaway, Dornock, Fortrose, Inverary, and Campbeltoun in one hundred pounds Scots each, for not sending up commissioners to this convention as directed by the missive, and appoints letters of horning and other dilligence necessary to be direct at the agent's instance agt. the saids royal burrows for payment thereof.

Annual committee appointed with yr. usual powers.

40. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Pittenweem, Dumferling, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Craill, Tain, Culross, Northberwick, Cullen, and Queensferry as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five (Edinburgh being always one) shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament con-

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1745.

Annual committee appointed with yr. usual powers.

cerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likewise in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be to morrow at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them.

Convention dissolved.

41. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-six years, and appoints their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

5 July 1745.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1745.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thomas Allan, D.G., and James Norie, conveener; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Perth, James Crie; Dundee, Alexr. Duncan; Montrose, George Murison; Lithgow, James Buckney; Air, John Campbell; Inverness, John Baillie; Selkirk, Willm. Wauch; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Inverkeithing, Sr. Robt. Henderson.

Preses chosen.

The which day the annual committee elected Archibald Stewart, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1745. The affair of St Andrews delay'd.

The same day the committee having taken under consideration the remit made to them by the last annual convention touching a submission made by William Douglas of Glenbervie, provost of St Andrews, and others on the one part, and James Fearnie, dean of gild of the said burgh, & others on the other part, anent certain contraversies and debates which arose betwixt the said partys and has subsisted since Michaelmas last, and having heard the said submission read, with the set of the said burgh and a decreet arbitral, dated the twenty-first of August iajvij & and twenty-four, pronunced betwixt the dean of gild and conveener of the said burgh, and having considered the same with a proces of reduction depending before the lords at the instance of the said James Fearnie and others agt. the said William Douglas and others, and having heard partys fully upon the matters in dispute, and having fully reasoned on the said matters, they adjourned till Munday next and ordered partys then to attend.

8 July 1745.

Sederunt.

Archibald Stewart, lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Thomas Allan, dean of gild, and James Norie, conveener; Pearth, James Crie; Dundee, Alexr. Duncan; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Linlithgow, James Buckney; Montrose, George Murison; Inverness, John Baillie; Selkirk, Willm. Wauch; Cullen, Mr James Philp.

Petn. for Jedburgh sub-committed.

The which day the annual committee having taken into their consideration the several remits of the last general convention to them, and particularly the petition of the town of Jedburgh, they remit to the burghs of Selkirk, Lauder, and North Berwick, or any two of them, to enquire into the facts set furth in the said petition, and to report the same to the committee betwixt and the fifteenth of October next.

Petn. for Dysert sub-committed

The same day the committee having taken into consideration the petition of the magistrats of the burgh of Dysert, they remit to Robert Whyte and James Barclay, present and late provosts of Kirkaldie, to enquire if the price offered for the two peices of muir proposed to be fewed is a full and adequat price for the same, and to report their

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745.

oppinion thereanent to the committee betwixt and the first of October next.

The conveener of Selkirk to be cited.

The same day the committee having considered the complaint given in by the magistrats and councillors of Selkirk against the deacon conveener and others for several disorderly practises within the said burgh, they appoint the parties complain'd of to be served with a coppy of the said petition, and to be cited by the burrow officer or such as shall be deputed by him to answer the same against the second Wednesday of August next, and appoint the deacons of the hammermen, weavers, and shoe makers to produce their respective seals of cause with their answers.

The preses to write to the capt. of the "Happy Janet."

The same day the committee having heard a letter from several of the merchants concern'd in the ships presently coming down from London to the port of Leith, and others in the Firth of Forth with verry valuable merchandize, and that the convoy appointed for them is not such as they could wish, therefor the committee impower their preses to write to Capt. John Knight, commander of his Majestie's vessell the "Happy Janet," desireing him furthwith to proceed down the Firth and stand in such a way to the southward as he should judge most likely to meet the forsaid Leith ships with their convoy, and to join and protect them in their way home; which letter was wrote accordingly.

Decreet arbitral anent St Andrews.

The same day the committee having resumed the consideration of the debateable matters betwixt William Douglas, provost of St Andrews, and others on the one part, and James Fairnie, dean of gild of the said burgh, and others, they pronunced their decreet arbitral in the said matter, which with the submission they ordered to be recorded in the books of the convention, the tenor of which submission and decreet arbitral are as follows, vizt.:—

Submission anent St Andrews recorded.

The partys following, to wit, William Douglas of Glenbervie, Esqr., present provost of the burgh of St Andrews, for himself, and as having power and commission from the other magistrats and town councill of the said burgh, defenders in the proces aftermentioned, to sign this

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745. Submission anent St Andrews recorded.

submission conform to their commission dated the . . . on the one part, and James Fairnie, late dean of gild of the said burgh, John Loch, late baillie thereof, David Fraser, late treasurer thereof, Andrew Thomson, late baillie thereof, James Thomson, present conveener thereof, Robert Watson, deacon of the smyths there, Thomas Dyar, deacon of the wrights there, Paul Duncanson, deacon of the baxters there, John Baxter, deacon of the tayleors there, William Russell, deacon of the shoe makers there, Thomas Braid, deacon of the butchers there, Mr Andrew Watsen, late dean of gild of the sd. burgh, William Donaldson and Alexander Fraser, merchants there, pursuers of the proces underwritten, on the other part, have submitted and referred and hereby submitt and referr to the final determination and decreet arbitral to be given & pronounced by the next general convention of the royal burrows, which shall be held on the first Tuesday of July next; and incase of their not determineing, to the final determination of a select committee of the royal burrows to be named for that end by that convention, all questions, contraversies, and debates relative to & concerning the late election of magistrats and councillors and other office-bearers of the said burgh of St Andrews, which was made att Michaelmas last, and particularly and without prejudice to the forsd. generality, the matters contain'd in a lybelled summonds of reduction and declarator raised before the Lords of Council & Session at the instance of the said James Fairnie and others against the said William Douglas and others, with power to the said next annual convention at their first meeting, or to the said select committee to be by them named, to take and receive all manner of probation necessary, and to give and pronunce their final sentence & decreet arbitral in the matters hereby submitted at any time betwixt and the twenty day of July next to come; and whatever the said annual convention shall determine therein, and failzieing of their determination whatever the said select committee to be by them named shall give and pronunce as their decreet arbitral in the said matters, the saids partys submitters bind and oblidge them & their successors to obtemper and

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745. Submission anent St Andrews recorded.

fulfill the same to one another under the penalty of which the partys failzieing oblidge them to pay to the partys performing or willing to perform attour performance; and to the end the several questions and contraversies presently depending betwixt the said partys and hereby submitted may be ripened and prepared to receive a final judgment by the said convention, or by the said select committee to be by them named, the said partys hereby authorize and impower the present annual committee of the royal burrows to take in and receive the informations, claimes, and answers of both the saids partys submitters with the vouchars thereof, and to take and receive the proof of the several allegations to be made by the said partys, and that at any time the present committee of the royal burrows shall think fitt, and which claims and answers, vouchars thereof, and proof to be taken by the present committee is to be by them laid before the next general convention, and which proof the partys submitters agree and declair to be as valid and effectual as if the same had been taken by the next general convention, or by the said select committee to be by them named; and the said partys consent to the registration hereof and of the decreet arbitral to follow hereupon in the books of council and session, burgh court books of Edinbr., or records of the royal burrows, or in any other judge's books compitent to have the strength of a decreet interponed thereto that letters of horning on six days' charge and other execution needfull may pass thereupon as effeirs, and thereto constitute their prors., &ca.

In witnes whereof (written upon stampt paper by John Forbes, servitor to William Forbes, one of the prinle. city clerks of Edinr.) the said partys have subscrived these presents as follows, vizt.:—the said James Fernie and other pursuers of the proces @mentioned at St Andrews, the twenty-fifth day of February iajvij & & fourty-five years, before these witnesses, John Wilson & Robert Greig, both late treasurers of St Andrews, and James Graham, merchant there; and the said William Douglas for himself and as having power and commission from Laurence Gib and the other persons, defenders in the said proces

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745. Submission anent St Andrews recorded.

(conform to their commission, dated the twenty-third, twenty-sixth, and thirtieth days of March rescive. and year forsaid) att Edinburgh, the thirtyeth day of March and year @written before these witnesses, Mr Lewis Douglas, advocat, and Robert Douglas, writer in Edinbr., *sic subscribitur*, Will Douglas Fernie, John Loch, David Frazer, Andrew Thomson, James Thomson, Robert Watson, Thomas Dayer, Paul Duncansone, John Baxter, William (W. R.) Russell (his mark), Thomas Braid, Andrew Watson, William Donaldson, Alexander Frazer, John Wilson, witnes; Robt. Greig, witnes; Ja. Graham, witnes; Lewis Douglas, witnes; Robt. Douglas, witnes.

Follows the decreet arbitral on said submission.

Dect. arbitral anent St Andrews recorded.

Wee, James Norie, painter, and conveener of Edinburgh; James Crie, present provost of the burgh of Pearth; Alexander Duncan of Lundie, present provost of the burgh of Dundee; Andrew Cochran, merchant, and present provost of the burgh of Glasgow; John Buckney, merchant, and provost of Linlithgow; George Murison, mercht., and baillie of Montrose; John Baillie, writer, and heritor of the burgh of Inverness; William Wauch, present town clerk of Selkirk; Mr James Philp, advocat, heritor in the burgh of Cullen; Sr. Robert Henderson of Fordell, provost of Inverkeithing, all commissioners named by the saids several burrows to represent them at the late general convention of the royal burrows begun and held at Edinburgh upon the second day of July current, and arbiters named in manner underwritten for determining the matters and things aftermentioned; whereas William Douglas of Glenbervie, Esqr., present provost of the burgh of St Andrews, for himself and as having power and commission from the other magistrats and town council of the said burgh on the one part, and James Fairnie, late dean of gild of the said burgh, John Loch, late baillie thereof, James Thomson, present conveener thereof, and other merchants & inhabitants of the said burgh on the other part, by their submission, dated the twenty-fifth day of February and thirtyeth day of March last, submitted and referred to the final determination and decreet arbitral of the late

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745. Dect. arbitral anent St Andrews recorded.

general convention of royal burrows; and incase of their not determineing, to the final determination of a select committee of the royal burrows to be named by the said convention for that effect, all questions, contraversies, and debates relative to and concerning the late election of magistrats, councillors, and other office-bearers of the sd. burgh which was made at Michaelmas last, and particularly and without prejudice of the forsaid generality, the matters and things contain'd in a lybell'd summonds of reduction and declarator raised before the Lords of Councill and Session at the instance of the said James Fairnie and against the said William Douglas and others; and whereas the said general convention of burrows by their act dated the second day of July current did nominat us, or any five of us (whom they declair'd a quorum), as a select committee for determineing the said contraversies and debatable matters as in the said submission and act of the general convention of burrows at more length is contain'd; and now wee having considered the said submission proces therein referr'd to, the set of the said burgh with the claims of the parties submitters answers made thereto and whole writes therein referr'd to, and having heard partys thereupon and being therewith well and ripely advised, and having God and a good conscience before our eyes, doe pronunce our decreet arbitral and final sentence as follows:—That is to say wee find, decern, and declair *primo*, that the election of Laurence Gib & Andrew Masson as baillies of the said burgh of St Andrews made at Michaelmas last was illegal and contrair to the set of the said burgh and that their election is void and null, and that therefor they cannot exerce the office of baillies nor act or vote at the elections to be made within the said burgh at Michaelmas next nor be continued upon the councill from the year from and after Michaelmas next; but in regaurd of the practise for many years preceeding Michaelmas last, wee find & declair the election of the haill other magistrats and members of council of the said burgh to be good and valid, and that the same shall subsist untill alter'd by the councill of the said burgh; *secundo*, that at Michaelmas next no person shall be leited or chosen into the offices of dean of gild, baillies, treasurer, or gild councill of the sd. burgh

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745. Dect. arbitral anent St Andrews recorded.

but such who are actual inhabitants, burgesses, and gildbrether in the same; *tertio*, that in all time hereafter none shall be leited or chosen into any of the saids offices who shall not be at the time of the election actual inhabitants, burgesses, and gildbrethern within the said burgh, and that none shall be capable to be elected a gild counciller unless he be a gildbrother and pay for his gild ticket, and be an inhabitant paying a part of the publick burdens of the burgh; *quarto*, that at Michaelmas next and in all time thereafter no person shall be continued as dean of gild, baillie, or treasurer within the said burgh at or above the space of three years successively; *quinto*, that in all time coming no person within the said burgh who is a tradesman and incorporat with any of the crafts of the said burgh shall be capable to be chosen a gild councillor unless he formally renunce his being a craftsman, and lodge such renunciation in the hands of the councill at least two moneths before he be capable to be chosen a gild counciller, but prejudice to tradesmen who are gildbrethern to merchandize; *sexto*, that in all time coming no person within the said burgh who has or shall renunce his being a craftsman and become a mercht., soe as to qualify himself to be a gild counciller, shall be ever capable of being chosen a deacon: and wee ordain the said James Fairnie and others to discharge the said proces with all that has followed or may follow thereon; and wee decern both the saids partys to observe and implement these presents under the penalty of fifty pounds sterling money to be paid by the party failzier to the party performer, or willing to perform attour performance; and lastly, wee ordain these presents with the forsaid submission to be recorded in the books of the genl. convention, and thereafter to be registrat that execution may pass thereon in terms and conform to the clause of registration in the said submission; and being so registrat, wee ordain an extract thereof to be recorded in the council books of St Andrews, to be read over in councill annually, immediatly before the councill proceed to the election of magistrat or councillors; but of consent of partys wee find and declair that incase the said Andrew Masson shall at any time betwixt and the fifteen day of September next by a writing

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1745. Dect. arbitral anent St Andrews recorded.

under his hand formally renunce his craft within the said burgh, and lodge such renunciation with the town councill, his election at Michaelmas last shall subsist and be good, valid, and effectual, or otherways the same is to be void & null as said is.

In witnes whereof we have subscrived these presents, written upon this and the three preceeding pages of stamped paper by John Forbes, serviter to William Forbes, city clerk of Edinbr., at Edinbr., this eight day of July iajvij & and fourty-five years before these witnesses, the said William Forbes, Archibald Blair, writer in Edinbr., and the said John Forbes, *sic subscribitur*, Jas. Norie, Edinbr.; James Crie, Perth; Alexr. Duncan, Dundee; And. Cochrane, Glasgow; John Buckney, Linlithgow; George Murison, Montrose; Jon. Baillie, Inverness; Will. Wauch, Selkirk; James Philp, Cullen; Will. Fforbes, witnes; Archd. Blair, witnes; John Forbes, witnes.

Mr John Cunningham's petition delay'd.

The same day the committee delay'd the consideration of the petitions for Mr John Cunningham, advocat, and the petition for the magistrats and inhabitants of Prestonpans untill their next meeting, in respect the partys did not attend.

12 July 1745.

Sederunt.

Archd. Stewart, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Thos. Allan, dean of gild, & George Lauder, assessr.; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Selkirk, William Wauch.

Agent to concurr wt. Mr John Cunningham, late prot. of Inverkeithing, against Hugh Grindiston.

The which day the annual committee having taken into their consideration the petition presented to the last general convention by Mr John Cunningham, advocat, late provost of Inverkeithing, complaining of some illegall practises used by Hugh Grindiston, eldest baillie of the said burgh, with the concurrance and assistance of several justices of the peace, in the last election of magistrats of the said burgh with a remit of the convention to them thereanent, and having also heard the application made by the said Baillie Grindiston to the justices of the peace, and their deliverance and warrand thereon, with the probation adduced before the

court of session as to the manner of obtaining, granting, and executing the forsaid warrand, they appoint Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to concurr with the petitioner, Mr John Cunningham, in any proces that is raised against the said Baillie Grindiston and the aforsd. justices of the peace for the illegal practices mentioned in the said petition. EDINBURGH. 12 July 1745.

6 February 1746.

Edinburgh, Thomas Allan, d. gild, and James Norie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Dumbarton, Archd. M'Aulay. Sederunt.

The which day the committee elected Thomas Allan, first commissioner to the last convention for the city of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

The same day the committee finding that it is necessary that such of the members of the committee who are not at a great distance from Edinbr. should meet here on the thirteenth currant to concert what measures are necessary to be taken for the welfare of the burrows at this juncture, and particularly to name a deputation of their number to wait upon his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland, and in name of the royal burrows to congratulat his highness upon his arrival into this country and his success against the rebells; therefor they appoint their preses to write to the burghs of Perth, Dundee, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Coupar, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Pittenweem, Dumferling, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Craill, Culross, North Berwick, and Queensferry to send up their members duly instructed at that day for the purposes abovementioned; & which letters were wrote & dispatcht accordingly. Committee to be wrote to meet.

13 February 1746.

Edinburgh, Thomas Allan, preses, and James Norie; St Andrews, John Loch; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Irving, Patrick Spark; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Craill, Thomas Dick; North Berwick, Alexr. Lauder; (fourteen burrows *blank*). Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 13 February 1746.

Committee to wait on the Duke of Cumberland and the Prince of Hesse.

The which day the preses reported that he had in consequence of the minuts of last sederunt sent circular letters to the whole burrows which compose the annual committee, excepting Montrose and Aberdeen who are at too great a distance, and the circular letter contain'd in the minuts of last sederunt being read, the committee unanimously authorize, deput, and appoint such of the members of the committee as shall be in Edinburgh and can be found there (Edinburgh being always one) upon the arrival of his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland at Edinbr., to wait upon his royal highness, and in name of the committee and whole royal burrows to congratulat his highness upon his safe arrival into this country, and upon such other accounts, events, matters, and things as shall be judged seasonable and reasonable by those hereby deputed: as also authorize, depute, and appoint them at the same time to wait of his highness the Prince of Hesse, and congratulat his highness on his safe arrival here, and upon such other events, points, & matters as they shall judge reasonable; and appoint these hereby deputed to report to the next sederunt.

Address to his Majesty approven.

The same day it was moved in the committee that an humble address be made out and sent to his Majesty by the hands of his grace the Duke of Argyle, which was unanimously agreed to, and of which address the tenor follows:—

Unto the King's most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Soveraigne—

Wee, the annual committee of the convention of the royal burrows of that part of your Majestie's dominions called Scotland, in behalf of our selves and constituents upon this first occasion of our meeting, begg leave to approach your sacred person, deeply sensible of the madness of our countrymen by whom a wicked and unnatural rebellion has been chiefly fomented and carry'd on against the best of soveraigns, under whom wee have the full and secure enjoyment of our religion, libertys, and laws.

EDINBURGH. 13 February 1746.

Wee are altogether unable to express our thankfulness to your Majesty for sending down among us his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland, and with the most unfeigned zeall congratulat the success of your Majestie's arms under his command over the Pretender's son and his detestable followers.

Your Majestie's faithfull state of burrows has been more exposed to the rage and malice of these rebells than any other of your subjects; some of us are deprived of magistracy, many of us have been harassed, oppressed, and plundered, and all of us almost totally interrupted in prosecuting our bussiness and commerce; wee have been subject to lawless arbitrary power, and treated like conquer'd slaves.

Wee confide, however, in your Majesty's goodness to give such releif in our present low and distressed condition as your royal wisdom shall judge propper, and with the greatest sincerity beg leave to assure your Majesty that wee will with our lives and fortunes maintain & defend your Majestie's person, government, and family, against all traitors and enemys whatever, on which the continuance of every thing dear and valuable to us under God depends.

Our earnest and ardent prayers and wishes are and shall be that your Majestie's endeavours to restore the peace & liberty of Europe may be soon crowned with success, that your subjects may be sensible of the blessings they enjoy under your auspicious government, that after a long and prosperous reign your royal progeny may, with your Majestie's virtues, inherit your crown to the end of time.

Edinbr., 13th Febry. 1746, sign'd at
the desire and in presence of the
annual committee by Thos. Allan, preses.

Which address they appointed Thomas Allan, late dean of gild of Edinbr., to sign in their presence and in their name, which he did

EDINBURGH. 13 February 1746.

accordingly, and order'd the said Thomas Allan to transmitt the same to his grace the Duke of Argyle to be by his grace humbly offered to his Majesty.

Committee to wait on Genl. Guest.

The same day the committee unanimously appoint the preses and such other of the members of the committee or burgesses of Edinburgh as he shall think fitt to wait of his excellency General Guest, and in name of the committee and whole royal burrows to give his excellency their most hearty thanks for the many civilitys by him shown and good services done by him to the royal burrows in general, and particularly to the city of Edinbr.

18 Aprill 1746.

Sederunt.

Thomas Allan, late dean of gild of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., James Norie & Hugh Hathorn; Inverness, John Baillie; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Air, Andrew Huntar; Queensferry, Archd. Stewart.

The general missive appointed to be sent.

The which day the agent represented that the time was now approaching for transmitting the annual missive to the several royal burrows, in order that the convention may meet the first Tuesday of July next as was appointed by the last convention: that accordingly the missive is made out, but that as there are no magistrats at present in this city to order the missive to be transmitted, and to ascertain what shall be ye extent of the missive dues payable by the whole burrows for this current year, he wanted the directions of the annual committee thereanent, and for that end he exhibited to the committee a coppy of the missive with ane abstract of his accompts. Which being considered by the committee, they were of oppinion that the missive dues to be pay'd by the whole burrows for this current year could be no less than five thousand pounds Scots, and that this sum should be filled up in the missive as the sum to be pay'd by the whole burrows for this current year, and recommend to the clerks to transmitt the missive to the several royal burrows in the usual manner.

2 May 1746.

EDINBURGH. 2 May 1746.

Sederunt.

Thomas Allan, late dean of gild of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn and James Norie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Peebles, James Halden; Elgin, William Forbes.

The preses to write to the annl. committee to meet on the 13th of May.

The which day the committee appoint their preses to write to the burghs of Glasgow, Stirling, Dysert, Dumbarton, Ruthglen, Irving, Air, Dumfreise, Selkirk, Pearth, Linlithgow, Aberdeen, Montrose, Dumbar, Hadingtoun, Dundee, Coupar, St Andrews, Inverkeithing, Queensferry, Kirkaldie, Kinghorn, Bruntisland, Anstruther Easter, Aberbrothock, and Ranfrew to send up their commissioners to Edinbr. upon the thirteen day of May, instant, in order to congratulat his Majesty upon the success of his arms against the rebells, and to thank him for his great goodness to this country in sending his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland to command his army, under whom, by divine assistance, there is a compleat victory obtain'd over these enemys of his Majesty and our happy constitution in church & state; and also to consider what furder may be necessary to be done at this juncture for the good of the royal burrows. Which letters were wrote accordingly.

13 May 1746.

Sederunt.

Thomas Allan, late dean of gild of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Hugh Hathorn & James Norie; Pearth, James Cree; Dundee, Alexander Lundie, Esq.; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; St Andrews, John Watson; Air, Andrew Huntar; Hadingtoun, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, James Abercrombie; Kirkaldie, James Barclay; Dumfreise, George Bell; Bruntisland, Robert Angus; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Aberbrothock, John Man; Peebles, James Halden; Irving, Patrick Spark; Selkirk, William Wauch; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Ruthglen, Andrew Leitch; Tain, Hugh Ross.

The which day the committee unanimously agreed to the following

EDINBURGH. 13 May 1746.

Address to his Majesty approven.

address to his Majesty on the success of his arms against the rebells, which they appoint their preses to sign in their name, and to transmit the same to his grace the Duke of Argyle to be by him presented to his Majesty, and of which address the tenor follows :—

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Soveraign—

Address to his Majesty.

Wee, your Majesty's most dutifull and loyal subjects, the annual committee of the convention of royal burrows, as representing the citizens and burgeses of North Britain, most humbly intreat permission to congratulat your sacred Majesty on the great and important success of your Majesty's arms under his royal highness the Duke, and on the intire suppression of the wicked and unnatural rebellion which has unhappily long prevaill'd in this part of the island.

Wee have the highest reason to be sensible of our glorious deliverance from the greatest of evils, and to rejoice that from being subject to insolent lawless tyrany wee are happily restored to our mild and free government under a most Gracious Soveraign, who has always made the law the rule of his conduct.

As your Majestie's subjects are again in the full possession of their rights and liberties, have their propperty secured, and their domestick peace and tranquillity in a great measure restored; as this felicity is owing to your Majesty's paternal care and transcendant wisdom, wee, your Majestie's most faithfull state of burrows, beg leave to express our joy and acknowledgments with the most gratefull and sincere hearts, and humbly to assure your Majesty of our most dutifull and inviolable attachment to your royal person and family, and of our utmost endeavours in our sphere for the support of your Majestie's government, which by confirmed experience wee know to be ane inestimable blessing to your people.

Wee earnestly beseech the Supreme Being that the like success may at all times attend your Majestie's arms, whereof under

EDINBURGH. 13 May 1746. Address to his Majesty.

the divine influence wee have the greatest expectations from the superior conduct & valour of the illustrious hero deservedly at the head of your Majestie's troops, and that your Majesty may live many years to have the pleasure and glory of beholding your subjects free, happy, and contented, and these parts of the world secure in the enjoyment of the blessings your Majesty shall have procured for them.

Edinbr., 13th May 1746, sign'd in presence & by appointment of the annual committee of the convention of royal burrows by

Sic subscribitur,
Thos. Allan, preses.

Address to the Duke of Cumberland approven.

The same day the committee considering that by a former appointment they had order'd their preses and such of the representatives of the royal burrows as he should think propper to take with him to wait on his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland and make their compliments to him and welcom him to this country, and now that by divine assistance he has obtain'd a compleat victory over the rebells, they appoint their preses and such of their representatives as he shall take with him either at Edinburgh or where his royal highness shall think propper, and to congratulat him upon this happy event, in those words:—

May it please your Royal Highness,

Congratulatory address to the Duke of Cumberland.

Wee, the annual committee of the convention of royal burrows in North Britain, in behalf of our selves & constituents beg leave to appear before your royal highness, filled with gratitude to his Majesty for sending your royal highness to this part of his dominions; and with the greatest sincerity to congratulat the glorious success of his Majestie's arms under your royal highnesses conduct, and the intire suppression of the rebellion wholly owing, under God, to your royal highnesses superior wisdom & courage.

EDINBURGH. 13 May 1746. Congratulatory address to the Duke of Cumberland.

This event has already been attended with most happy consequences; his Majesty's throne fix'd and established, peace & tranquillity restored to Britain, our constitution sacred and civil preserved; and wee hope will soon be followed by an other no less important, the power of France humbled and reduced, and all these blessings procured under his Majesty by one of his august family, more eminent for his heroick qualities than royal birth, raised by providence to vindicat the rights and libertys of mankind.

The state of burrows has for sometime groan'd under the tyrany of a Popish Pretender supported by our infatuated countrymen; wee have fatally felt the effects of his power and arbitrary disposition; permit us humbly to request your royal highness to recommend us to his Majesty, that by his royal care and goodness wee may be releived from our present distress'd condition, and to hope for your royal highness's countenance and favour on all occasions.

> May his Majesty's arms under your royal highness always be prosperous; may the royal family be at all times dignified with such illustrious branches; may your royal highness long continue the darling of his Majesty's subjects, the terror of his enemys, and under his Majesty the defender of the libertys of Europe, and of the peace and constitution of Britain.

Edinbr., 13th May 1746, sign'd in name & by appointment of the annual committee of the royal burrows.

Sic subscribitur,
Thos. Allan, preses.

Petn. for Prestonpans remitted to a committee.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration a petition from the inhabitants of Prestonpans remitted to them by the last convention, they subcommitt to the burghs of Hadingtoun, Dumbar, and North Berwick to viset the said burgh, and to report to the next convention if the said burgh is in the low circumstances set forth in the said petition.

EDINBURGH. 13 May 1746. Complt. agt. some inhabitants of Bo'ness.

The same day the agent read a letter which he had received from Serjeant Duncan, who was ordered to quarter on the town of Bo'ness, complaining that some of the inhabitants of that place had beat him in the exercise of his office, and that he could not continue to quarter without being in hazard of his life; the committee appoint their agent to enquire if a proof can be brought of the facts, and if proven to prosecut the offenders according to law.

Memorial and Queries for the royal burrows of Scotland and Answers to the said Queries, appointed to be recorded by the 37th Act of the last Convention.

From the records it is apparent that the exclusive priviledge of a forreign trade was granted to the freemen of the royal burrows of Scotland by a charter from King David, anno 1124, confirmed by parliament in almost every after-reign, whereby all other persons are inhibited to deal therein under high pains & penalties; and particularly that by the 84th Act, Ja. 4th, that none dwelling out of burrows use merchandize, nor tap nor sell wine, wax, &c., nor staple goods outwith burrows, under the pain of confiscation of their goods; and that by 152 Act, 12 Parliament, Ja. 6th, former acts on this subject are ratified; and it is of new statute that none exercise merchandize not being free burgesses under the pain of confiscation of their whole moveables, half to the king and half to the burgh, whose commissrs. should apprehend (*i.e.*, discover) the same, with an exception as to landed men having merchandize for their own use, but not for sale. That there are several after-acts of parliament to the same purpose, but by the 5th Act, 3d Sess., 2 Parl., Cha. 2d., the priviledge of the royal burrows was in so far retrinched that by that Act liberty is given to all his Majestie's subjects to export the native commodities of the kingdom, and to burghs of barrony and regality to export all their own proper manufactory or such goods as should be bought by them in fairs or mercates, and to all persons exporting the native growth of the kingdom to import in return of the goods exported, or of the ffreight and hyre of the ship, timber,

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iron, and other goods therein recited, and all necessarys for tillage or building, or for the use of their own manufactories.

By the 12th Act, anno 1690, the ancient priviledges of the burrows are revived, and the said Act, Cha. 2d, in part repealed, it being by the Act 1690 enacted that the importing of all forreign commodities and merchandize does and shall belong to the freemen inhabitants of their Majesties' royal burrows allenarly, excepting such commodities as noblemen and barrons should import for their own use, and no part thereof for sale; as likeways the priviledge of exporting by sea all the native commodities of this kingdom, excepting corns, coals, metals, salt, &c., and without prejudice to noblemen and barrons to export so much of the other native product of the kingdom of whatever kind as might answer to the value of the commodities to be imported by them for their own use.

And by this Act the priviledge of retailing all forreign commodities is given to the burghs of regality & barrony provyding they buy the same from freemen of royal burrows & no otherways. In pursuance of an act of the convention of burrows and contract entered into with Mr John Buchan an Act was made, anno 1693, intituled Act for communication of trade, ratifying that act and contract of the convention and giving a communication of the priviledge of trade to the burghs of regalities, barronies, and others upon their paying or relieving of the royal burghs of a proportional part of the tax roll imposed upon them by act of parliament corresponding to their trade; but that altho' by the contract with Mr Buchan the proportion of the tax roll of which the royal burrows were to be relieved was settled to be a tenth part, yet since the expiring of that contract no proportion hath been settled, nor indeed could well be, while the acceptance of the communication remained voluntary, the said Act 1693 having only appointed a just proportion to be paid, but left that proportion to be settled by the convention and the particular burghs, to be redressed by parliament in case of hardship done them; and altho' another Act was afterwards made in the 7th session of K. William's parliament enabling his Majesty

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to issue out of his royal commission to such persons as he should think fit for settling the quota of which the royal burrows were to be relieved, and proportioning that amongst the burghs of barrony and regality, yet that commission as to these heads never took effect.

By the 19th Act of that 7th session of King William the priviledges of the royal burrows with regard to export and import is again acknowledged and declared to belong to them and to such burghs of barrony or regality to whom the priviledges had been or should be communicated exclusive of all others with the same exception as in the Act 1693, and with this variation that noblemen and barrons might export the native product growing & manufactured in their own land, altho' the same might exceed the value of commodities imported for their own use, and with an exception in favours of manufactories and societies for fishing.

By the Treaty of Union the whole United Kingdom is to have the same priviledges and be made under the same regulations as to trade, but at the same time by the 21st article of that treaty it is provided that the rights and priviledges of royal burrows, as they then were, do remain intire after the Union and notwithstanding thereof.

From the comparing of all which laws it is evident that the present state of the royal burrows with regard to their priviledge of trade is that the exclusive right of exporting and importing all forreign commodities by sea, excepting corns, coals, minerals, and others particularly excepted in the Act 1690 and 1698, is in the freemen and burgesses of burghs royal bearing burden within those burghs, and in the freemen inhabitants of those burghs of barrony, regality, or others, who have accepted of the communication of trade with regard to the inhabitants of Scotland, and under the exceptions allowed to noblemen and gentlemen by the said Acts 1690 and 1698, of exporting the produce and manufactory of their own ground, as also of any other commodities in order to purchase goods to be imported for their own use, and under the other exceptions in favour of manufactories and fishing companys.

That in the year 1724 a full memorial of the situation of the royal burrows was laid before a sub-committee of that body, who having

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taken the opinion of eminent lawyers, they appeared to think the laws hitherto made are defective as to the execution of them and that it would be necessary to have some clauses in an act of parliament to supply that defect.

That as trade is fluctuating and many burghs of barronys and regalitys are situated more commodiously than royal burrows; as a great many of these burghs of barrony and regality have never as yet accepted of or claimed the communication of trade, and yet trade to a higher extent than severals of the royal burrows; and as a great many other of the burghs of barrony and regality who have accepted of the communication of trade, yet pretend that they have a power to renounce that priviledge, by which means the aid the royal burrows proposed may be intirely frustrated and disappointed; and as the royal burrows apprehend that their right is sufficiently established by law, altho' the method of execution is not so clearly pointed out by the statutes, the following queries are offered for an answer:—

Primo, By what legal method can the royal burrows insist against the unfree traders in burghs of barrony & regality & otherways in order to oblige them to accept of the communication of trade?

Secundo, Does action lye at the instance of the royal burrows or their agent against persons trading without this communication for the pains and penalties contained in the several act of parliament, altho' the goods or commodities in which they deal be not apprehended?

Tertio, Can any of the burghs who have accepted of the priviledge of communication of trade renounce the same *ad libitum*; or must they not, according as the trade is diminished or increased, submit themselves to the convention of the royal burrows to suffer an augmentation or diminution of their assessment in the same way that other royal burrows do upon alterations in the tax roll?

And lastly, an opinion is humbly desired, in what shape, and in whose name, these processes should be raised & carried on?

Edinbr., June 27th, 1745. This is the memorial and queries to which the answers signed by me of this date do refer (signed) James Graham.

EDINBURGH.
13 May 1746.

Follow the Answers to the above Queries
for the royal burrows of Scotland.

I have considered a state of the case premised to the queries on a paper apart signed by me of this date, and am of opinion—

To the 1st, That any royal burrow or those commissioned by the same may seize and apprehend any goods or merchandize, in which the royal burrows have by law the only priviledge of trading, belonging to any unfreemen not having the priviledge of the royal burrows communicated to them, and may confiscate the same when found within such royal burrow, the one half for the use of the Crown and the other half for the use of the burrow; and they may likewise seize and arrest any such goods or merchandize belonging to unfreemen though without the jurisdiction of the burrow and prosecute the confiscation thereof before any judge ordinary.

To the 2d, As ever since the 5th Act, Sess. 3d, Par. 2d, Cha. 2d, there are no other pains and penalties enacted against unfreemen exporting and importing such goods and merchandize as the royal burrows have the only priviledge of trading in, it does not appear that an action at the instance of the royal burrows or their agent against unfree traders could be of any use or significancy; but I am of opinion that no such action since the foresaid act of parliament could be carried on, unless the goods were previously seized or arrested either within or without the burrow.

To the 3d, If any burghs of barrony or regality have accepted of the priviledge of communication of trade by contract with the royal burrows, they cannot *ad libitum* renounce or throw up the same, nor on the other hand can the royal burrows withdraw the priviledge of communication of trade from them; and where no particular sum in which such burghs of barrony or regality are assessed is mentioned in the contract, there is no doubt but such burgh of barrony or regality must submitt themselves to the convention of the royal burrows, and suffer an augmentation or diminution of their assessment in the same way that the royal burrows do upon alterations in the tax roll.

EDINBURGH. 13 May 1746.

To the 4th, I agree with the former opinion of the lawiers, that the laws hitherto made, declaring the priviledges of the royal burrows, are defective, especially as to the manner of execution against unfree traders, and that a new act or a clause in some act of parliament would be requisite for supplying these defects, in the terms as has been proposed by the lawiers formerly advised; but still, even as the law stands, the same may be put to execution and have very good effects for prevailing with the burghs of barony, regality, and others to come in and accept of the communication of trade upon their relieving the royal burrows of a reasonable proportion of the tax roll corresponding to the benefite of trade which might be carried on in any such unfree trading place; for if any person were delegated by the royal burrows or by the burrow next to the places where unfree trade is exercised to take notice of the trade of the place, and to seize and arrest the goods in which the unfree traders deal, and that these goods were confiscated by the judge ordinary, it is very probable that the inhabitants of such places where unfree trade is carried on would rather agree to accept of the communication than lose their goods or be subjected to processes, expence, & trouble in defending and endeavouring to recover the same.

Edinr., June 27th, 1745. (signed) James Graham.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

1 July 1746.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1746. Sederunt.

Pearth, James Crie; Dundee, Alexr. Duncan; Stirling, Willm. Chrystie; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, John Loch; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Air, Thomas Garvine; Hadingtoun, James Lundie; Dysert, James Abercrombie; Kirkaldie, James Barclay; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstr. Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, Duncan Forbes, Esqr.; Bruntisland, Robert Angus; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Irving, Mr Patrick Boyle; Jedburgh, John Jardine; Kirkudbright, John Dalziell; Wigtoun, Patrick M'Ghie; Pittenweem,

Andrew Foular; Dumferling, David Adie; Anstr. Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, William Wild; Aberbrothock, John Man; Elgine, William Forbes; Peebles, James Haldine; Craill, Thomas Ramsay; Tain, John Davidson; Culross, Mr Charles Cochran; Banf, James Innes; Whithorn, John M'Andish; Forfar, Willm. Ker; Ruthglen, Willm. Muir; North Berwick, Robert Hog; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, William Romanus; Kilrenny, Robert Weddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Willm. Maxwell; Sanquhar, John Crightoun; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintore, Robert Bruce; Inverury, James Forbes; (eighteen burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1746. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention elect Andrew Cochran, Esqr., present lord provost of Glasgow, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, and qualify'd himself to his Majesty by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Pearth, Dundee, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Coupar, Dumfreise, Innerkeithing, Irving, Kirkudbright, Dumfermling, Selkirk, Dumbar, Lanerk, Culross, Banf, Ruthglen, Cullen, Annan, and Queensferry as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented or to be presented to this convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the said commissions, except the commission for the burgh of Irving to Patrick Spark, wryter, as assessor, his commission being rejected for want of the qualifications required by the platform; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not qualify'd formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Robert Fall, assessor for Dumbar; David Adie, commissioner for Dumferling; Thomas Ramsay,

Committee to revise the commissions.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1746.

Committee to revise the commissions.

commissioner for Craill; William Ker, commissioner for Forfar; John Dalziell, commissioner for Kirkudbright; and David Rankin, assessor for Innerkeithing.

Act for missive dues read.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

4. The committee appointed to revise the commissions presented to the general convention reported that having heard & considered the commissions for the burghs of Dysert, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Anstruther Wester, Aberbrothock, Peebles, Craill, Whithorn, Forfar, Lauder, Kilreny, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, Kintore, & Inverury, they were of oppinion the whole of the said commissions should be sustain'd both as to commissioners and assessors. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and sustain the commissions accordingly.

Commissions approven.

5. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Tain and Northberwick, they approve thereof and sustain the said commissions.

Annual committee's proceedings approven.

6. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve of the same.

Committee to draw an address to his Majesty.

7. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Perth, Dundee, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Dumfreise, and Stirling as a committee to draw up a congratulatory address to his Majesty upon the late glorious victory obtain'd at Colloden, and appoint the same to be laid before the convention at their next meeting.

Address to the Duke of Cumberland approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard read the address prepared by their annual committee to his royal highness the Duke, of date the thirteenth of May last, they unanimously approve yrof., and appoint the same to be drawn out in name of the convention to be

presented to his royal highness by such members of the convention as shall be in town when his highness returns from the north to this city.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1746.

9. The same day the agent having presented his accott. of missive dues, and also his accompt of unfree trade, the convention remitt to the burghs of Perth, Dundee, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Dumfreise, and Stirling as a committee to audit the sd. accompts and report.

Committee on the agent's accotts.

10. The same day the general receiver presented ane accott. of the payments made by him on ffisherys and manufactures in the year 1745; which the convention appoint to lye on the table for the perusal of the members.

The accotts. paid by the recr. genl. presented.

11. The same day a motion being made by the commissioner for the burgh of Dumfreise that as the Lord President of the Session had remarkably distinguisht himself for his loyalty & love of his country and regaurd to the burrows dureing the whole progress of the rebellion now happily supprest, that therefor it would be propper a committee should be named to return his lordship the thanks of the convention. Which being considered, the convention unanimously approve of the motion, and appoint their preses with the burghs of Perth, Dundee, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Stirling, Coupar, & Banf to wait of the Lord President and return him the thanks of the convention.

Committee to wait on the Lord President and thank him for his loyalty dureing the rebellion.

12. The same day the convention having heard a petition & complaint by Mr John Cunningham, advocat, provost of Innerkeithing, Adam Turnbull and David Rankin, baillies, and several other councillors of the said burgh, complaining of some illegal practises used by Hugh Grindiston, eldest baillie of the said burgh, supported by some justices of peace at the election of the magistrats for the year 1744; and also complaining against John Kirkaldie, late dean of gild, for giveing rise to the said abuses by signing a petition to the said justices of peace for restraining the legal electors to goe into the councill at the time of the said election; and the convention being unanimously of oppinion that the saids justices their entering into the said burgh of Innerkeithing

Complaint, Mr John Cunningham & oyr. magistrats of Inverkeithing agt. Jno. Kirkaldie, &c.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1746. Complaint, Mr John Cunningham & oyr. magistrats of Inverkeithing agt. Jno. Kirkaldie, &c.

and restraining the legal electors from voteing as aforsaid is a high incroachment upon the rights and priviledges of the royal burrows, tending to subvert the freedom of elections within the same, they therefor appoint their agent to concurr with the petitioner in the proces now depending before the lords on that subject, and recommend to Mr Joseph Williamson, conjunct clerk, to give his assistance as a lawier in carrying on the same; and impower the annual committee to issue a sum from the agent as they shall see cause not exceeding ten pounds sterl. toward prosecuting the said affair upon the petitioner's recept and oblidgment to return the same in the terms of his petition; and also they remit to the annual committee to enquire into the facts represented against the said John Kirkaldie, and to doe therein as they shall see cause; and for that end they appoint their officer or such as he shall delegat to summond the said John Kirkaldie to compear before the said committee on Friday next at eleven in the forenoon, or any other day the committee shall appoint, to answer to the said complaint, and for that end to serve him with a coppy thereof and of this act.

2 July 1746.

Heads & articles of the missive continued till July 1747.

13. The same day the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive reported that they were of oppinion that each head and article of the missive should be continued, particularly the tax roll as it now stands, for one year untill July 1747; and that it should be recommended to the annual committee to enquire into the exactions said to be made on each vessell of one hundred tuns burden tradeing to Norway, as mentioned in the sixteenth head of the missive, and that the committee should meet with Henry Wallace, brother to Alexr. Wallace, consul at Bergin, and conferr with him on that subject; and in pursuance of what is contain'd in the seventeenth head of the missive with relation to smugling, that it be recommended to the clerks to write circular letters to all the burrows seting forth that if any are found negligent or any how remiss in discouraging smugling to the utmost of their power, that such burghs will fall under the displeasure of the convention. Which

being considered by the convention, and the annual missive being read over in their presence, they approve of the committee's report, and appoint the tax roll and other heads of the missive to be continued accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1746.

14. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Inverness and Elgin read in their presence, they approve thereof and sustain the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

15. The same day the convention having considered the memorial drawn up by the agent anent levying the proportion of cess payable by the unfree trade, with the queries subjoin'd thereto and answers made to the said queries by Mr James Graham, advocat, they remit to the annual committee to frame and draw up, by advice of the lord advocat and such other lawiers as they shall imploy, a propper clause to be brought into the land tax bill which will render the levying of the tax upon the unfree trade effectuall; and they recommend it to each burgh after converseing with their brethern to transmit as soon as possible their oppinion upon this subject, and what observations occur to them with respect to the said propper clause; and appoint the committee thereafter to write to the great burrows and to each district, and transmit to them a coppy of the clause to be framed, to the end they may return such observes as may occurr to them on the said clause against the first of November next to be then considered by the committee; and they recommend to the burrows to write to their several representatives and use their endeavours to prevaill with them to procure the clause soe to be framed to be ingrossed in the said land tax bill which will be passed next session of parliament.

Remit to the annl. committee anent the cess of the burghs of barrony.

16. The same day the committee appointed to prepare ane address to his Majesty on the late victory at Colloden and suppression of the rebellion, presented the draught thereof. Which being read & considered by the convention, they approve of the said address, and appoint the same to be sign'd by their preses and transmitted to his grace the Duke of Argyle, to be by him presented to his Majesty; and further they

Address to his Majesty approven.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1746. Address to his Majesty approven.

appoint their preses in name of the convention to write a letter of thanks to his grace for the important services he has done to his king & country dureing the late disturbances, and of which address the tenor follows:—

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

Address.

Most Gracious Sovereign—

Your Majestie's dutifull and loyal subjects, the general convention of royal burrows in Scotland, with pleasure embrace this first opportunity of their stated annual meeting of expressing the overflowings of gratitude for your Majestie's paternal care in appointing a royal commander to animat the troups and lead them on to victory. No sooner did a younge hero of your illustrious house appear at the head of the army than the rebells, struck with a pannick, exchanged their vain hopes of success for a precipat flight, while every true freind to religion, liberty, and their country felt inexpressible joy resulting from the near prospect of having all that is valuable as men and members of society secured to them under the auspicious reign of the best of kings.

The inestimable blessings procured to Great Britain by the happy revolution, and inviolably mantain'd by the illustrious soveraigns of your august house, make your faithfull state of burrows with double joy unite with the general voice of the nation in expressing our most sincere and hearty congratulations to your sacred Majesty on the late glorious victory gain'd by his royal highness the Duke over the Pretender's son and his deluded followers, who, insensible of the happiness of a mild administration, aim'd at exchanging liberty and a government by laws for slavery and arbitrary power.

The happy effects of this victory, the rebellion being now intirely supprest, sensibly felt by the state of burrows, who suffered severely dureing this unnatural rebellion, but with peace & tranquillity, trade and commerce cannot faill to revive, and while the industrious quietly enjoy the fruits of their labour wee are perswaded every loyal subject will be sensible of your Majestie's royal & fatherly care of this part of

your united kingdom, and that the state of burrows will ever look on themselves as bound by the most sacred tyes of gratitude to support your Majesty to the utmost of their power against forreign and domestick foes, till by divine assistance you triumph over both, and not only secure the trade and happiness of Great Britain, but prove the protector of the Protestant intrest and libertys of Europe.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1746. Address.

Edinbr., 2d July 1746. Sign'd in name & by appointment of the general convention of the royal burrows of Scotland.

Sic subtr.,
And. Cochran, preses.

[17. Agent's accott. of missive & cess of the burghs of barrony, &ca., audited & approven. 18. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited. 19. Horning agt. deficients. 20. Agent to pay sallarys &.]

21. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Whithorn praying for a supply for repairing their harbour, they remitt the same to their annual committee, and recommend to the burghs of Wigtoun, Stranraer, and Kirkudbright, or any two of them, to inquire into the state of said harbour, and make their report thereanent to the annual committee.

Petn. for Whithorn.

22. The same day the convention having heard a memorial and petition for the burgh of Jedburgh, craving the aid of the burrows for the several purposes therein mentioned, they remit the same to the annual committee, and they to report their oppinion thereanent to the next convention.

Petn. for Jedburgh.

Eodem die post meridiem.

23. The convention again read the address to his royal highness the Duke, and the same was sign'd in the convention by the preses, and incase there shall be a regular magistracy in Edinburgh at the time of his royal highness's return, the convention appoint the lord provost of Edinburgh, alongst with such burrows as are in town or can be conveen'd,

Address to ye Duke of Cumberland sign'd.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1746.

Address to ye Duke of Cumberland sign'd.

to wait upon his royal highness with the said address; but if there is no regular magistracy upon the return of his royal highness to this place, then they appoint the said address to be presented by their preses along with such burghs as can be brought together in manner above-mentioned.

Annl. committee to authorize stent masters for Edinbr.

24. The same day, upon a motion from the commissioner from the burgh of Perth, the convention impower their annual committee, upon propper application from the city of Edinburgh, to name stentmasters and the collector and in general to doe every other thing that this convention could doe for facilitating the proportioning the cess and watch money and effectually levying the same.

Committee to wait on ye Justice Clerk.

25. The same day, upon a motion from the burgh of Rutherglen, the convention appoint the committee who waited on the Lord President of the Session together with the burghs of Hadingtoun & Rutherglen to wait of the Lord Justice Clerk, and in name of the convention to return his lordship thanks for his good services to his king and country dureing the late rebellion.

Agent to pay to Craill £25 sterl.

26. The same day the convention having heard an act of the former convention in favours of the burgh of Craill impowering their agent to pay twenty-five pounds sterl. to the said burgh, upon their produceing propper certificats under the hands of the committee therein named that the peir and harbour of the said burgh was sufficiently repair'd and made commodious, and the convention having now heard a report thereanent by the commissioners of the burghs of St Andrews, Kilrenny, Anstruther Easter, and Pittenweem, with ane accompt of the expence laid out upon the said reparation attested by Thomas Dick and James Clerk, late and present treasurers of the said burgh, amounting to £551, 8s. Scots, they appoint their agent to pay to the said burgh for defraying the said expence the sum of twenty-five pound sterl., the commissioner for the said burgh having declaired in the convention that they were to ask no furder sum.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1746. Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

27. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Perth, Dundee, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Dumbar, Elgin, Tain, Culross, North Berwick, Cullen, & Queensferry as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrow's representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on Friday next at eleven of the cloak in the forenoon at this place, and declair that every member of

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1746. Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent; and upon a motion from the burgh of Perth, they authorize their said committee soe soon as Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Montrose are propperly supply'd with magistrats to receive such commissioners as the said burghs shall name to take care of the publick affairs of the burrows as members of the said committee, and to elect the lord provost of Edinburgh or eldest magistrat of the city present for the time for their preses.

Convention dissolved.

28. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fourty-seven years, and appoints their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

4 July 1746.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1746. Sederunt.

Andrew Cochran, present provost of Glasgow, preses.

The which day the committee elected Andrew Cochran, present provost of Glasgow, to be their preses.

Jo. Kirkaldie suspended from his vote in councill.

The same day the committee having heard the complaint at the instance of Mr John Cunningham, provost, and other magistrats & councillors of Innerkeithing, against John Kirkaldie, which was remit to them by the last general convention, the complainer produced ane execution against the said John Kirkaldie, whereby it appear'd he was served with a coppy of the complaint and personally warned to appear this day to make answer thereto: and the executor of the citation having appear'd and verify'd his execution, and John Kirkaldie being often call'd by the officer and he failzieing to appear, the committee assign the

last Thursday of July next to Mr Cunningham to prove his complaint, and ordain the said John Kirkaldie to be cited to appear against that day with certification, and in respect of his contempt they suspend him from voteing in Councill in the meantime.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1746.

The same day the committee having considered a petition for the town of Jedburgh, remitted to them by the last general convention, they remit to the burghs of Selkirk, Lauder, and North Berwick, or any two of them, to enquire into the facts set forth in the said petition, and to report the same to the committee betwixt and the fifteen day of October next.

Sub-committee appointed for Jedburgh.

The same day the committee having considered the thirteenth act of the last convention relative to a new exaction said to be made on vessells tradeing to Norway, they appoint their clerk to write to Dundee, Aberdeen, & Dumbar to send up what evidence they can of the consul at Berghen his exacting eight dollars of consulage on every hundred tuns, and recommend to the clerks to get a coppy of his letters of consulage.

23 July 1746.

Andrew Cochran, provost of Glasgow, chosen preses; Inverness, John Baillie; Wigtoun, David Baird; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Elgin, William Forbes; Tain, John Davidson; Air, Andrew Huntar.

Sederunt.

The which day there was a petition of the merchants and shipmasters tradeing and sailing from Leith to London presented to the committee, shewing that there is at present several vessells loaded with merchandize lying ready to saill from the port of London to Leith, and others at Leith and ports adjacent bound for London, which cannot put to sea with safety on accott. of French privateers, which as wee are inform'd have appear'd on the coast; and it being a great loss to the petitioners to have their merchandize on board, some of it for near three moneths past, and a great stop to trade in general if propper convoys

Petn. to be presented to the lords of the admiralty for a convoy.

EDINBURGH, 23 July 1746.

Petn. to be presented to the lords of the admiralty for a convoy.

are not appointed to protect that trade; craving it might therefor please the committee to appoint their agent at London to apply in their name for convoys to such ships as are now ready to saill, and that convoys may be stationed for the London trade betwixt this Firth and London in time coming during the continuance of the present war with France, that the committee might not be furder troubled with applications of this nature. Which being considered by the annual committee, they resolved and agreed that a petition to the lords of the admiralty from the committee, to be sign'd by their preses to the effect abovementioned, shall be transmitted by the preses to their agent at London, to be by him presented to the lords of the admiralty; and recommend to the preses to desire Mr Hamilton, the agent, to be diligent in procureing the convoys pray'd for, and to return his answer directed to the preses, and in his absence to Messers Williamson and Forbes, conjunct clerks to the general convention; and a draught of a petition to the effect forsaid being presented and read, the same was approven of, and of which petition the tenor follows:—

Petn. to the commrs. of the admiralty.

To the Rt. Honble. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the petition of the annl. committee of the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland,

Humbly sheweth—

That the navigation on the east coast of Scotland to and from London has for some time been greatly infested and obstructed for want of propper and regular convoys.

That as set forth to us, several vessells in that trade are lying loaded and ready to saill, some of them near three moneths, not daring to put to sea on account of privateers which, as wee are inform'd, have appear'd on that coast.

May it therefor please your lops. to consider and give releif in the premisses, and to appoint propper & regular convoys for protecting and securing the trade between London and the

east coast of North Britain during the continuance of the present war with France.

EDINBURGH. 23 July 1746.

Edinbr., 23rd July 1746. Sign'd in name & by appointment of the annual committee of the royal burrows.

Sic subscribitur,
And. Cochrane, preses.

Address to the Duke of Cumberland presented.

The same day the preses reported that he, together with several other members of the committee, had gone to the Abbay of Holyroodhouse to present to his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland the congratulatory address of the general convention mentioned in their minuts of the second currt., but that they had got no access to his royal highness; wherefor they transmitted the said address to Sir Everard Falconer, his highnesses secretary, to be by him in their name deliver'd to his royal highness; and that Sr. Everard had told the preses since, that he had deliver'd the same accordingly, and which his royal highness was pleased most graciously to receive.

31 July 1746.

Sederunt.

Mr James Philp, commissioner for Cullen, chosen preses; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Baillie; Selkirk, Willm. Wauch; Elgin, William Forbes; Wigtoun, David Baird.

Act suspending John Kirkaldie from voteing in the councill of Inverkeithing.

The which day the committee having resumed the consideration of the complaint exhibited by Mr John Cunningham, provost, and the other magistrats and councillors of the burgh of Inverkeithing against John Kirkaldie, late dean of gild of the said burgh, the complainer, Mr John Cunningham, compearing produced an execution of warning against the said John Kirkaldie, whereby it appear'd that he was lawfully warned by the burrow officer and personally apprehended to have compear'd at this time and place and answered the forsd. complaint, and to have heard a proof adduced by the complainer in the said matter; and he being frequently call'd for that effect and failzieing to compear,

EDINBURGH. 31 July 1746.

Act suspending John Kirkaldie from voteing in the councill of Inverkeithing.

the complainer did furder produce an execution of warning against Alexr. Taylor, weaver, late in Inverkeithing now in Edinbr., James Hunter, weaver in Inverkeithing, and John Brown, gardner in Balbugie, as witnesses for proving the facts set forth in the said complaint; and furder did *in modum probationis* produce an extract of a petition sign'd by the defender, John Kirkaldie, and others praying that the justices of peace would stop all persons except the then magistrats, councillors, and present deacons from entering the place of election at Michaelmas 1744; and also produced an extract of the minuts of election, whereby it appears that the said John Kirkaldie, defender, was elected a baillie at the said term of Michaelmas 1744; together with a decreet of the Lords of Council and Session, dated the ninth & thirty-first days of July iajvij & and fourty-five years, whereby their lordships found that the old deacons had a title to vote in the elections at Michaelmas iajvij & and fourty-four, and declairing the said elections void in regaurd the old deacons were debarr'd from entering the place of election: and as a proof of the facts set forth in the said complaint, viz., that the old deacons were actually debarr'd from entering the councill house at the time of the said election, not only did the complainer repeat the proof adduced before the lords in the forsaid process of declarator, but also as a furder proof thereof he did adduce before the committee the saids Alexander Taylor, James Huntar, and John Brown, witnesses, above design'd, who being all solemnly sworn and interrogat thereanent deponed affirmative thereto, as their depositions bears. Which depositions, with the writes produced by the complainer *in modum probationis,* being all this day read & considered by the annual committee, they find the complaint proven against the said John Kirkaldie, defender, and therefor they suspend him from acting or voteing in the councill of Inverkeithing untill the next meeting of the general convention of royal burrows in July iajvij & and fourty-seven years; and they remitt the furder consideration of the cause to the said next general convention, and ordain the said John Kirkaldie to be cited to attend the said convention upon the first day of July iajvij & and fourty-seven years.

28 August 1746.

EDINBURGH. 28 August 1746. Sederunt.

David Baird, commissioner for Wigtoun, chosen preses; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, William Forbes.

Letter to the capt. of "The Swallow."

The which day upon ane application made by several merchants and shipmasters tradeing to London, to the effect aftermentioned, the committee agreed to the following letter to the commander of his Majesty's ship "The Swallow," which they appoint their preses to sign in their name & send to him, and of which letter the tenor follows:—

Sr.—The annual committee of the royal burrows understand from several merchants and masters of ships concern'd in the trade from the Firth of Forth to London, that his Majesty's ship "The Swallow" under your command lyes in the Road and will saill with such trade as will be ready in two days and take the same under her convoy and protection, and that the ships concern'd in that trade who intend to take the benefit of your convoy presently lye in the harbour of Leith, and will not be ready to get out of the harbour to the Road sooner than eight days.

Wee therefor earnestly beg the favour of yow that "The Swallow" may remain in the Road untill that time, when & no sooner the ships concern'd in the London trade will get water to carry them out of the harbour. Wee are, sr., your most obedient humble servt.

Edinbr., 28th of August 1746. Sign'd in presence & by appointment of the annl. committee of the royal burrows of Scotland by D. Baird, preses.

4 December 1746.

Sederunt.

Andrew Cochran, commissioner for Glasgow, preses; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Baillie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Elgine, Mr William Forbes.

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1746.

Submission of Sr. Geo. Prestoun & Wm. Weemys accepted of.

The which day Mr John Cunningham, advocat, gave in a missive directed to the annual committee, sign'd by George Preston and Willm. Weemys, two of the justices of peace who had granted warrand to stop some of the late deacons of Inverkeithing from entering the councill house of the said burgh at the time of electing the magistrats and councill at Michls. one thousand seven hundred & fourty-four years. Which being read, the committee appointed the said letter to be insert in their books, and of which the tenor follows:—

Gentlemen,—At the elections in the burgh of Innerkeithing at Michaelmas 1744, by advice of a lawier in whom wee had some confidence, wee were, upon the information of one of the magistrats of that place and five others, induced to sign a warrand for keeping some people claiming votes from access to the councill then assembled for choising the magistrats; that in the trial of the validity of that election the Lords of Session found the granting of such a warrand to be illegal, and Mr Cunningham having enter'd a complaint to the honble. the convention of royal burrows, they found that this interposition was illegal and unwarrantable and an incroachment upon the priviledges of the royal burrows, to defend which they ordered their agent to concurr in the proces then depending before the Court of Session against us the justices of peace at the instance of Mr John Cunningham, and accordingly your agent, Mr Forbes, became a party in the cause and was admitted in name of the royal burrows by the Lord Ordinary.

That wee are now verry sensible of our having been misled in the granting of that warrand, and doe hereby wish and hope that the honble. committee will not reckon this escape of ours any design to derogat from the dignity and priviledges of the royal burrows, for whom as a part of the legislature we have the greatest regaurd and esteem; and as wee by a letter to the magistrats and town councill of Inverkeithing have, it's hoped, satisfyed them that no intention of hurting their independency and priviledges was meant, soe wee hope that the town and privat partys therein concern'd being satisfyed, the annual com-

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1746.

mittee will accept of this acknowledgment and quash any furder procedure by their agent in this matter in so far as concerns us, who were really misled by wrong information and an advice not tenible in law.—Wee are, with the greatest respect and esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servants, G. Preston,
Will. Weenyss.

After reading of which letter the said Mr John Cunningham did, by his consent subjoin'd to the said letter, declare he was satisfyed to pass from the said process and subscrib'd the same, of which also the tenor follows :—

I subscriving, provost of Inverkeithing, for myself and as taking burden on me for the inhabitants & community of the said town, doe agree that the honble. committee of burrows shall stop furder procedure in the proces depending at their agent's instance against the above justices of peace, in regaurd they have given full satisfaction to the town for their offence committed by them ; in witnes whereof I have sign'd thir presents in presence of the said committee this fourth of December 1746 (sign'd, John Cunningham) : and I doe furder declair that the said two justices have satisfy'd the town for all expence laid out by them in the said matter, and that the town is not to demand any thing from the burrows on accott. of the said expence.

Sic subtr., John Cunningham.

Which letter and declaration being considered by the committee, and they being fully satisfyed therewith, they appoint their agent to stop any furder in the said proces at his instance against the said two justices of peace.

Agent to prosecut Ja. Buchan at Bo'ness, &.

The same day the agent acquainted the committee that upon his having sent an order of quartering upon the town of Burrowstouness, his quarterer was beat and abused, and also John Henderson, the collector of the cess of the said burrow, was pursued before the shirriff-deput of Lithgow at the instance of one James Buchan, who

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1746.

Agent to prosecut Ja. Buchan at Bo'ness, &.

had refused to pay up his quota of the cess & was poinded for not payt., in which action the collector was assoilzied, but that notwithstanding thereof the said Buchan had brought a proces against the said collector before the Court of Session for reduceing that absolvitor, and that if the quarterer and collector were not supported in the execution of their offices, it would put a stop to all levying and ingathering of the cess from the burghs of barrony and regality, and even in the several royal burrows. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their agent to concurr with the said John Henderson and to defend him in the said action of reduction, and for that end to imploy lawiers and to expend what may be necessary in the defence of the said action.

Petn. for the magistrats of St Andrews

The same day there was a petition presented by the magistrats and council of St Andrews, craving the concurrance of the committee in a complaint brought against them before the Court of Session. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint the other partys to be served with a coppy of the said petition, and they to give in their answer thereto in six days thereafter.

20 January 1747.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, lord provost of the city of Edinburgh; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, James Philp; Elgin, William Forbes; Inverkeithing, John Cunningham; Wigtoun, David Baird.

Geo Drummond elected preses.

The which day the annual committee, in virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention, elect George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Advertisment anent the convoy to be insert in the news papers.

The same day the preses acquainted the committee that the master of the arm'd vessell "The Happy Janet" had been with him, and show'd his orders from the right honble. the lords of admiralty to saill from the Road of Leith with all the trade that are bound for London, and that how soon the lord provost and the committee of burrows should think

fit. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their clerks to cause an intimation thereof to be insert in the Edinburgh news papers requireing all masters of vessells who intend to take the benefit of the said convoy to repair to the Road of Leith betwixt and the tenth of February next, at which time the said arm'd vessell will receive orders to saill with such trade as shall be then in the Road of Leith, & which was insert accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 20 January 1747.

Advertisment anent the convoy to be insert in the news papers.

The same day the sub-committee appointed to viset the burgh of Jedburgh gave in their report concerning the decay'd state of the sd. burrow. Which being read, the committee referr the same to the consideration of the next general convention.

Report for Jedburgh.

24 February 1747.

George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan, dean of gild, and James Ker, deacon conveener; Inverness, John Baillie; Selkirk, William Wauch; Elgine, Mr Willm. Forbes; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Cullen, Mr James Philp.

Sederunt.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that he understood a bill is now brought into parliament for takeing away several jurisdictions in Scotland; and least any of the jurisdictions of which the royal burrows are possest of should be any ways impared or taken away, it would be necessary to write to his grace the Duke of Argyle and the agent to the royal burrows at London thereanent, and produced the draught of a letter to both. Which being read, the committee approve thereof, and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name and to send them off without loss of time, and of which the tenors follow:—

The preses to write to the Duke of Argyle and the agent anent the bill taking away the herele. jurisdictions.

May it please your Grace,—By order of the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland I give your grace this trouble, on occasion of the bill now depending for taking away the heritable jurisdictions of this country.

Letter to the Duke of Argyle.

Several of the burrows have jurisdictions extremely necessary for

EDINBURGH. 24 February 1747.

Letter to the Duke of Argyle.

the good government thereof, Edinburgh particularly, which has the right of shirriffship within the town and liberties.

Wee hope these rights in favour of burrows are neither lookt upon as a grivance nor intended to be taken from them, but least they come to be hurt by general words, wee beg leave to recommend ourselves to your grace's favourable protection, that yow would have the goodness to have the preservation of our rights in your eye, and if needfull to have a reserving clause in our favour introduced into the act. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, may it please your grace, your grace's most obedient humble servt.

Sic subscribitur,
Geo. Drummond, preses.

Edinbr., 24th February 1747, to his grace the Duke of Argyle.

Follows the letter to Mr Willm. Hamilton, at London.

Letter to the agent.

Sr.,—The annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland being informed that there is a bill now depending for taking away the heritable jurisdictions in this country, have ordered me to acquaint yow that several of the royal burrows have jurisdictions which it would be extremely prejudicial to their burrows to be divested of, particularly the city of Edinburgh, which has the right of shirrifship within the city and libertys thereof, and several other rights absolutely necessary for the good goverment of the place.

Wee have no reason to beleive that these jurisdictions of burrows is lookt upon as a grivance, or that they are intended to be taken away by the act now depending, yet we thought it incumbent upon us to give yow this notise, that yow may take propper measures to have them remain untouched by the act.—I am, with respect, sr., your most humble servant, *Sic subtr.*, Geo. Drummond, preses.

Edinbr., 24th Febry. 1747.

P.S.—"The committee are affraid that without a clause in the act of parliament reserving to the royal burrows the several jurisdictions

they are now possest of that these might be hurt, to the great loss of the inhabitants, by the general words in the act, not intended by the legislature to their prejudice, and therefor they are solicitous that yow should take care to have such a reserving clause ingrost in the act, and take every propper opportunity to conferr with the members from Scotland on that head, and transmit a coppy of the bill to me wt. the first opportunity."

EDINBURGH. 24 February 1747.

Letter to the agent.

The same day the committee having heard a report by the commissioners for Kirkudbright and Wigtoun anent the burgh of Whithorn and harbour thereof, they remit the same to the consideration of the next general convention.

11 March 1747.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Thomas Allan; Air, Andrew Huntar; Selkirk, Willm. Wauch; Elgine, Willm. Forbes; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Wigtoun, David Baird; Inverness, John Baillie.

Sederunt.

The which day the lord provost reported that he had sent off the two letters mentioned in the former sederunt as is thereby directed, and that he had gott a letter in answer from Mr Willm. Hamilton, the agent for the burrows at London, of which letter the tenor follows:—

My lord,—Yesterday's post brought me the favour of yours of the 24th of last moneth. It is true such a bill as yow mention was brought into the house of lords, a coppy of which bill I send yow inclosed agreeable to your direction; but it being now apprehended as I am told that this bill being in several cases a money bill ought to take its first rise in the house of commons, I am apt to think the bill in the house of lords will be dropt and a bill much to the same purpose will be brought into the house of commons, and there is accordingly leave given to bring into that house a bill to that effect. That bill is not yet brought in, and therefor whether it is the same, or in what may differ from that brought into the house of lords, I know not; whenever it is presented, if in anything material it differs from what is herewith sent yow, I

EDINBURGH. 11 March 1747.

will transmit a coppy of the intire bill, or of the particulars in which it differs from the former bill.

I have been told by verry good authority there is not any design or intention to incroach upon or vary the jurisdictions of the royal burrows, and therefor yow will perceive there is a clause in the seventh page of the bill saving to the royal burrows of Scotland all the jurisdictions which they are now possest of, the nature of which clause is verry carefully to be examined into, and if it will sufficiently answer the intent it seems calculated for, give me leave only to submit the few following observations.

It seems, me thinks, a little aukward not to make this saving a paragraff by it self, but only to bring it into the same paragraff which relates only to a particular point of imprisoning in a dungeon, which is only a prohibition, not from the legal but illegal exercive of a jurisdiction; it seems therefor reasonable it should be in a clause by itself.

As by this bill the legislature by express words takes away all heritable justiciarys, regalitys, shirriffships, stewartrys, and bailliarys, might it not be prudent to have the words as full and express in the saving clause as they are in the abrogating clauses, and not rely too much upon general words; but as the tryal of Lord Lovat may probably take up some time & postpone other bussiness yow will have time to favour me with the committee's furder instructions. I shall take every opportunity of consulting with the members from Scotland in relation to this bill, and when any thing material relateing thereto occurs I shall not faill giving yow punctual and early intelligence, and doe every thing in my power for the service of the royal burrows in this or any other case they are so good as to recommend to my care.—I am, my lord, your lordship's most humble & most obedient servt.

Sic subtr., Will. Hamilton.

P.S.—May it not be propper for your lop. to transmit to me a short accompt of what heritable jurisdictions the city of Edinbr. and other royal burrows claime a right to.

EDINBURGH. 11 March 1747.

The lord provost of Edinbr. proposed that ane other letter should be write & transmitted to the agent desireing him to continue his dilligence in procureing all the jurisdictions belonging to the royal burrows saved, and produced a draught of a letter for that purpose. Which being read, the same was approven of, and the committee recommended to the lord provost to sign the same in their name and transmit it to the agent, of which letter the tenor follows:—

Sr.,—Having considered the bill in parliament concerning herele. jurisdictions, and taken advice of lawiers, the result of their oppinion was that the saving clause in favours of the royal burrows was truely intended to preserve to the full exercise of every jurisdiction wherewith they are invested; however, to prevent all debates, it was thought adviseable to procure if possible the inserting in the saving clause a reservation with respect to the jurisdictions of royal burrows, as well without as within the royalty.

You will then be informed that many of the royal burrows have, beside their propper jurisdictions over the lands & tenements within their royaltys which they hold of the crown by burgage tenour, jurisdictions of justiciary, as high shirriffs, regality, barrony, or bailliary over other lands acquired by them from different proprietors: for example, the town & magistrats of Edinbr. have jurisdictions of justiciary and regality over part of the Cannongate and South Leith, derived by progress from the Earles of Roxburgh; the magistrats have also jurisdictions of bailliary over severals of the suburbs, such as Potteraw, Caldtown, Westport, &c.; and also the magistrats in conjunction with the ministers have jurisdiction over the barrony of Brughtoun, adjacent to the town, as administrators for Herriot's hospitall, none of which are within the royalty; now altho most if not all of these have been confirmed by parliament, and the exercise of their rexive jurisdictions have been hitherto deem'd beneficial, and altho the bill for abolishing heritable jurisdictions in Scotland contains a clause saving all jurisdictions compitent to the royal burrows, according to the natural import

EDINBURGH. 11 March 1747.

of which all these jurisdictions are preserved intire, yet because it may be possibly thought or at least a question may be stirred that the said saving clause relates only to the jurisdictions compitent to burghs over the burgage lands which are within the royalties, it is therefor proposed that after the words in the said clause, by law vested in or compitent to them or any of them, these words should be added, as well without as within the royaltys respectively.

If the bill is already brought in and got a reading in the house of commons, it will be propper to consider, and yow who are on the spott will be best able to judge, how far it is adviseable to propose the above addition by a motion in the house.—I am, your, &.

The committee also recommended to their preses to write to any other person or persons he thinks fitt who will be aiding in geting a clause brought into the act to save all jurisdictions belonging to any of the royal burrows, and that as well within as without their several jurisdictions of royaltys.

24 June 1747.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Thos. Allan.

The which day there was presented to the committee a petition for the magistrats and council of the burgh of Selkirk, craving the assistance & releif of the royal burrows in an popular action brought agt. them before the Court of Session at the instance of some craftsmen within the burgh, and several other processes mention'd in the said petition. Which being read, and the committee having heard Mr Andrew Pringle, advocat, as pror. for the partys raisers of the said action, they continue the concurrance formerly given by the burrows to the magistrats of Selkirk in the action abovementioned, and remit the furder consideration of the said petition to the next general convention, and allow Mr Andrew Pringle, advocat, to get a coppy of the said petition that he may be ready to answer the same against the meeting of the convention if he pleases.

General Convention *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 7 July 1747.

7 July 1747.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thos. Allan & James Ker; Pearth, John Robertson; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, Willm. Chalmers; Stirling, John Gib; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Glasgow, John Murdoch; Air, Thomas Garvin; Hadingtoun, James Lundie; Dysert, David Beatson; Kirkaldie, Mr James Oswald; Montrose, David Doig; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstr. Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, John Ewart; Inverness, Duncan Forbes, lord president; Bruntisland, David Ballantyne; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Irving, John Glasgow; Jedburgh, John Ainsley; Kirkudbright, Robert Carmont; Wigtoun, Patrick M'Ghie; Pittenweem, George Fortoun; Dumferling, David Addie; Anstr. Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Ranfrew, Wm. Somervell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Robt. Bell; Aberbrothock, John Man; Elgine, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Andrew Jamison; Tain, the honble. Willm., Master of Ross; Culross, Robert Geddes; Banff, James Innes; Whithorn, John M'Andish; Ruthglen, Baillie Muir; Northberwick, Willm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, Andrew Thomson; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, James Crightoun; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Inverurie, James Forbes; Stranraer, Gilbert Martin; (seventeen burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses during the sitting of this present convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he being formerly qualify'd to his Majesty King George the Second as law directs.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appointed the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, Inverness, Selkirk, Ranfrew,

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1747.

Committee to revise the commissions.

Dumbar, Lanerk, Cullen, Annan, & Stranraer, to whom they added the burghs of Tayne and North Berwick, as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to this convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their own presence, they approved of the said commissions; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not qualify'd formerly did qualify themselves to his Majesty by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance, to witt—Patrick Duff for Elgin, George Ross for Montrose, John Murdoch for Glasgow, James Ker for Edinbr., John Ainsley for Jedburgh, George Fortune for Pittenweem, John Robertson for Pearth, Robert Somervell for Ranfrew, John Melvill for Dumbar, Robert Henderson for Lochmabin, Andrew Jamison for Craill, Robt. Thomson for Hadingtoun, Will Ross for Tayn, Willm. Grant for North Berwick, and Andrew Logie for Aberdeen.

Act anent the missive dues read.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Eod. die at 1 a cloak post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

4. The committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they having heard and considered the commissions for the burghs of Dysert, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Irving, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Peebles, Craill, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Nairn, Rutherglen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, and Stranraer were of oppinion that the whole of the said commissions should be sustain'd both as to commissioners and assessors. Which being considered by the convention, they approved of the report and sustain the commissions accordingly.

Annl. missive read.

5. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remitt the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1747.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

6. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve thereof, and having observed that the committee had been at verry great pains and trouble in taking care of the affairs of the burrows, therefor they ordered their preses to return them the thanks of the convention, which was done accordingly.

Agent appointed to pay Mr Willm. Hamilton £7, 6s. sterl.

7. The same day there was produced in the convention an accott. of deburs̄ments by Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent for the royal burrows at London, which he had laid out in the affairs of the burrows, amounting to seven pound six shillings sterling. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent in this place, to pay the said accompt; and the convention observing from the accompt and the correspondance had with Mr Hamilton by the annual committee that he had been at extraordinary pains and trouble in the affairs of the burrows, they ordered their preses in their name to write Mr Hamilton a letter of thanks.

Annl. committee to wait on the Duke of Argyle & give him the thanks of the convention.

8. The lord provost of Edr. reported that when the act for taking away and abolishing the heritable jurisdictions in this part of the kingdom was depending in parliament, his grace the Duke of Argyle had shown great marks of his regaurd for the burrows, and particularly by procureing a clause in the said act saving and reserving to all the royal burrows all such jurisdictions, priviledges, & immunities as by law are vested in them, or compitent to any of them whether within or without the royalties respectively; and the convention considering likewise the great and important services which his grace has done of late to his king & country, and the great regaurd and respect he has always shown to the state of burrows, they therefor recommend to the annual committee to be named, to doe themselves the honour, in name of the convention, to waitt upon his grace, how soon he arrives in this country, and to give his grace their humble and hearty thanks.

9. The same day there was a memorial presented to the convention for Mr John Cunningham, advocat, provost of Inverkeithing, complaining of

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1747. Complaint, Mr John Cunningham agt. Kirkaldie and Grindiston remit to a committee.

some irregularitys committed by John Kirkaldie and Hugh Grindistoun in the town of Inverkeithing, and of their having contemned the authority of the late annual committee, in so far as the said annual committee had by their act and decreet suspended the said John Kirkaldie from sitting or voteing in the councill of Inverkeithing untill the first sederunt day of this convention, yet notwithstanding thereof he, the said John Kirkaldie, after threatning to beat the town officers to the ground, forced himself into the councill room of Inverkeithing on Saturday last and took his seat at the councill table, as appear'd by an instrument against him. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Glasgow to consider what is propper to be done to remedy such abuses as are set forth in the memorial, and they to report.

Memorial for Mr John Dundas, presenter of signatures, remit to a committee.

10. The same day there was a memorial given in for Mr John Dundas, presenter of signatures, seting forth that by immemorial custom the convention has been in use annually to order their agent to pay to him a gratuity of five pound sterling and four dollars to his clerk, and that for his annual pains and trouble for acquainting the royal burrows or their agent of any gift or grant that passes the exchequer that may be detrimentall to any of the royal burrows, and for furnishing the agent or clerks of the convention with coppys of the rolls and signatures each term untill the year 1744, when the convention was pleased to withdraw the said gratuity and to discharge their agent to pay the same; and seing that notwithstanding of this he had furnisht the agent or clerks each term with coppys of the rolls of the said grants and signatures since the 1744, therefor praying that this smal gratuity should be pay'd up to him since that year, and in time coming so long as he should take the trouble of notising the affairs of the burrows that comes before the exchequer and furnishing the said coppys. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to be considered by the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Glasgow, and they to report.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1747.

The trustees' and yr. secretary's report presented.

11. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for improving fisherys and manufactures, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, clerk to Mr Allan Whitfoord, general receiver, gave in the accompt of the payments made by him in consequence of the trustees' orders for the two years preceeding the twenty-fifth of December last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Edr., 12th Act.

Eod. die post meridiem.

Heads of the genl. missive & the tax roll continued till July 1748.

The same day the committee appointed to consider the present annual missive reported that they were of oppinion that each head and article of the missive should be continued, particularly the tax roll as it now stands, for one year untill July iajvij & and fourty-eight; and in pursuance of what is contained in the seventeenth head of the missive with relation to smuggling, the committee were of oppinion that the 17th article should be expressed in these words in the next annual missive: That whereas the whole royal burrows did in the year 1744 enter into the strongest resolutions for suppressing the smugleing, which it is feared have not had the desired effect, but in a great measure seem to be forgott, it is therefor earnestly recommended to each of the royal burrows, and to every one of the burghs who have accepted of the communication of trade, that they doe every thing in their power to discourag smugling; certifying such of ye burrows aforsaid as follow an illicit or smugling trade, or connive with smuglers in their neighbourhood, that the convention will show them all the marks of their displeasure and enquire annually how far these resolutions have been execute, and that a coppy of this head of the missive should be transmitted to all the burghs of barrony and regality who have accepted of the communication of trade. Which being considered by the convention, and the annual missive being read over in their presence, they approve of the committee's

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report and appoint the tax roll and other heads of the missive to be continued accordingly.

13. The same day the said committee having reported that they, having considered the memorial drawn up by the agent anent levying the proportion of cess payle. by the unfree traders, and rendering the undoubted rights of the royal burrows more effectual, were of oppinion that the 37th act of the convention 1745 should be renewed, the care and execution of which had been in a great measure prevented by the late fatal disturbances of the country; and the said act being read, the convention approve thereof, and renew the same and appoint the burrows and their annual committee to proceed accordingly, and to take such measures as shall appear to them most propper with regaurd to the other points contained in the agent's memorial, & of which act the tenor follows:—

Act anent the more effectual levying the cess of the burghs of barrony remit to the annl. committee.

The same day the committee appointed to consider the memorial drawn up by the agent anent levying the proportion of cess payle. for the unfree trade, reported that they having accordingly considered the same and the queries subjoined thereto, with answers made to the same by Mr James Graham, advocat, and having advised with the lord advocat thereanent, were of oppinion that it should be remitted to the annual committee to frame and draw up by advice of the lord advocat, and such other lawiers as they shall imploy, a propper clause to be brought into the land tax bill which will render the levying of the tax upon the unfree traders effectual; and that it be recommended to each burgh after converseing with their brethern to transmit as soon as possible their oppinion upon this subject and what observations occur to them with respect to the said propper clause, and that the committee should thereafter write to the great burrows and to each district and transmit to them a coppy of the clause to be framed, to the end they may return such observes as may occur to them on the said clause, against the first day of November next, to be then considered by the committee; and that it be recommended to

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the burrows to write to their several representatives and to use their endeavours to prevaill with them to procure the clause soe to be framed to be ingrost in the said land tax bill which will be pass'd next session of parliament. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report, and appoint the burrows and their annual committee to proceed accordingly.

Act anent the more effectual levying the cess of the burghs of barrony remit to the annl. committee.

14. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Inverkeithing to Mr John Cunningham, advocat, they approve of the said commission, and the said Mr Cunningham did qualify himself to his Majesty by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance.

Commission for Inverkeithing approven.

15. The same day the committee appointed to consider the memorial of Mr John Cunningham and others anent John Kirkaldie, burges and late dean of gild of Inverkeithing, reported that they having considered the same, together with a representation by the said John Kirkaldie declineing the jurisdiction of the convention, with his letter impowering Mr Robt. Blackwood of Pitravie, advocat, to enter a declinator in his name, were of oppinion that Mr Cunningham's memorial with John Kirkaldie's representation and letter should be remitted to the next annual committee, and they invested with conventional powers to inquire into the facts set forth in the memorial and the arguments used for John Kirkaldie, and to give judgment thereon; and in the mean time that the convention should renew the sentence suspending the said John Kirkaldie from acting and voteing in councill till the next meeting of the general convention in July 1748; and that the annual committee should be authorized to issue out a sum from the agent not exceeding ten pounds, as appointed by the last convention, for carrying on the proces agt. Hugh Grindiston, late baillie of Inverkeithing. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report, remit the caice of John Kirkaldie to the annual committee and vest them with conventional powers to doe therein as they shall see cause; and in the meantime renew the suspension agt. the said John Kirkaldie,

Act remiting the memorial of Mr John Cunningham agt. Kirkaldie and Grindiston to ye annl. committee;

and suspending John Kirkaldie from siting or voteing in the councill of Inverkeithing till July 1748.

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and impower the annual committee to issue out a sum from the agent not exceeding ten pounds as they should see cause for carrying on the proces depending agt. the said Hugh Grindistoun, appoint their agent to give his concurrance, and again recommend to Mr Joseph Williamson, conjunct clerk, to give his assistance as a lawier in carrying on the said proces.

Agent's accotts. presented.

16. The same day the agent having presented his accompts, the convention remit the same to the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Tain to consider the sd. accompts & report.

Committee on the establishmt.

17. The same day the convention remit to the committee on the agent's accompts to consider the sallarys and others upon the establishmt., & to report.

Petn., Willm. Tod, remit to the annl. committee.

18. The same day the convention having heard the petition of William Tod, mercht. in Edr., relating to some discoverys he had made of frauds committed with respect to the dutys paid on forreign linnen, much to the prejudice of the linnen trade in our country, and craving releif of some expence he had been put to at the port of London in seizing and bringing into condemnation a parcell of Dutch hollands and Silesia launs which had not paid the duty, they remitt the same to ye annual committee, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Petn. for the conservator remit to a committee.

19. The same day the convention having heard a representation & petition for the conservator of the Scots priviledges at Campvere setting forth that the former and new dues granted instead of the annual sum allowed to the conservater to make up his dues to ffifty pounds a year to enable him to keep a deput, they remit the same to the committee on the agents accompts, and they to report.

Proposals anent the British Linnen to be sent to the burrows.

20. The same day the convention having heard proposals by the British Linnen Company for improving that valuable branch of trade, they appoint their clerks, upon the companys lodging sixty-six coppys

of their printed memorials, to transmit the same to the burrows for their consideration with a letter desiring them to report their oppinion to the next convention.

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21. The same day the convention considering the great importance of our home linnen manufacture, they renew their recommendation, mentioned in the sixteenth act of the fourth of July 1744, to the lord provost of Edinbr. so soon as any favourable opportunity shall cast up, to write letters in their name to all the members of parliat. from Scotland, requesting them zealously & unanimously to countenance and support every measure that may have a tendency to promote and enlarge the linnen manufactures of Great Britain & Ireland.

Recommendation to the provost of Edr. to write to the members of parl. in favours of the linnen manufacture of Britain & Ireland.

22. The same day the convention having heard a memorial for Willm. Huntar, master of the bleachfeild at Leven, representing some hardships he labour'd under by the inhabitants of the town of Leven of late years imposeing a large proportion of the cess (laid upon the town of Leven) upon the memorialist, altho he neither resides within the town nor enjoys any of the libertys or priviledges of it.

23. The same day the convention having heard the reports from the burghs of Selkirk and Lauder anent the decay'd state of the town of Jegburgh, and concludeing that the said town was intituled to the aid of the convention upon the tax roll, and that they are stented far above what they are able to bear. Which report being considered by the convention, they appoint the same to be a head of the next annl. missive.

The report anent Jedburgh a head of ye missive.

24. The same day the convention having heard the reports of the burghs of Kirkudbright and Wigtoun anent the harbour of Whithorn, setting forth its present decay'd condition, and what a commodious harbour it might be if put in a tollerable repair, and having considered an estimat that it would take a considerable expence to execut the sd. necessary repairs, and having heard some burrows in that neighbourhead representing the great disadvantage that would arise incase the repairs were delayed an other year, doe therefor authorize their annl.

Agent appointed to pay to Whithorn 25 lit. sterl. incase the annl. committee shall be satisfy'd yrwt.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1747.

committee to issue out from their agent twenty-five pound sterl. for carrying on the said repairs, incase the said committee shall upon enquiry be satisfy'd that the issueing out the said sum will turn out to advantage if propperly apply'd.

Petn. for the inhabitants of Brigtoun remit to ye annl. committee.

25. The same day the convention having heard a petition for the inhabitants of the Brigtown of Inverteill, complaining that the baillies and stent masters of the Linktoun of Arnot were in use to impose & levy cess from them, and seting forth that they had no trade nor communication of trade, and therefor praying releif; they appoint the burghs of Kirkaldie, Dysert, and Kinghorn to enquire into the facts set forth in the said petition and to report to the annual committee, and they to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Petition for the inhabitants of Stromness remit to ye annl. committee.

26. The same day the convention having heard a petition for Alexander Graham and other inhabitants in the village of Stromness in Orkney, craveing the communication of trade with the royal burrows upon payment of such quota in the tax roll and other burdens as should seem just, they remit the same to their annual committee, with power to them to take all propper evidence as to the state of the said village and enter into contracts allowing them the communication of trade upon such conditions as to them shall appear just & reasonable,

8 July 1747.

[27. Agent to pay the conservator £25 sterl. 28. Agent's accot. of unfree trade approven. 29. Agent's accott. of missive dues approven. 30. Agent to pay sallarys and gratuities. 31. List of arrears of missive dues presented.]

Annl. committee to apply to parlt. for ane act anent ruinous houses wtin. royall burrows.

32. The same day a motion was made that it would be greatly for the benefit of the royal burrows of Scotland that application were made to parliament to procure ane clause in ane act of parliament for explaining and amending the act of Charles Second, Parl. 1st., Sess. 3rd., impowering the provost and baillies in all the royal burrows in Scotland to cause apprehat and sell all ruinous tenements within their respective

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Annl. committee to apply to parlt. for ane act anent ruinous houses wtin. royall burrows.

burrows, whether they lye on any publick street or vennal or in any privat court or closs or other place whatever within the burgh or suburbs thereof, together with the yeards & pertinents belonging to such ruinous tenements, as also all waist ground for areas upon which no houses have ever formerly been built, except the same be part of a gardin, court, or area belonging to & possest as a propper part and pertinent of some dwelling house within the town or suburbs, and that in the same way & manner as is directed by the said act of Charls. the 2nd. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee to be named with power to them to apply to parliamt. to procure a clause to be brought in to an act of parliamt. to the above effect, & recommend to their agent to frame such a clause to be laid before the committee, to the end the same may be transmitted to the several royal burghs.

Annual committee to consider the petition of Selkirk anent the popular action rais'd agt. the magistrats, &c.

33. The same day a petition of the magistrats & councill of Selkirk to the late annual committee with their remit to the present convention was presented, setting forth that the petitioners had been conveen'd before the Court of Session at the instance of certain craftsmen within the burgh and one person who had been a baillie, for reduction of three articles of their treasurer's accompts past by the councill for the years 1742 & 1743, which they were pleased to find fault with. It was objected to by the petitioners, the defenders, amongst other things that the action was not compitent at the instance of the pursuers, for that, if it was, it would be in the power of any litigious illminded person to raise what processes he thought fitt against the magistrats of the burgh within which he dwells, and thereby great vexation and expence might be brought upon every royal burrow in Scotland. That this debate having been taken to report by the Lord Elches, ordinary in the cause, the lords were pleased to sustain proces at the instance of the said pursuers and to repell the memorialists' objections as to their titles, against which interlocutor the petitioners had reclaim'd. Which being considered by the convention, they fand the matter set forth in the said petition to be of great importance to the state of burrows, and therefor

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1747.

Annual committee to consider the petition of Selkirk anent the popular action rais'd agt. the magistrats, &c.

did authorize and direct the annual committee to be named to continue & give their aid and concurrance to the petitioners in defence of the action abovementioned; and incase the interlocutor thereinmentioned should be adhered to, the annual committee is hereby impowered and directed to doe every thing needfull and compitent as they shall be advised for obtaining an alteration or redress of the said interlocutor or judgment, and that at the publick expence of the burrows.

Preses to thank the lord advocat for his care in the burrows' affairs.

34. The same day it was represented that the lord advocat had been verry usefull to the state of burrows when the late act of parliament abrogating some of the jurisdictions in Scotland was depending, by procureing a clause to be insert therein which saves to the burrows their rights, priviledges, and jurisdictions, and therefor recommended to their preses to return to his lordship the convention's hearty thanks and to beg of his lordship to continue his good offices towards the burrows; and the lord advocat being present, the preses return'd his lordship hearty thanks accordingly.

Annl. committee to apply for protections to herring ffishing and passage boats.

35. The same day it was represented to the convention that the fishermen upon all the coasts of Scotland and the seamen belonging to the ferry boats particularly in Kinghorn were dayly prest on board his Majesty's ships of war, and that if some stop was not put to this there could be no herring ffishing this year, nor could the leidges get passage att several of the ferrys. Which being considered by the convention, they recommend to the annual committee to procure protections to all ffishermen upon the coasts of Scotland and particularly upon the west coast, and to all seamen that are imployed in sailing ferry boats and particularly those of Kinghorn and Bruntisland.

Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

36. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinbr., Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Inverness, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgine, Tain, Culross, Banf, Northberwick, and Cullen as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, with power to them to proceed in, consider, and determine

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1747.

Annl. committee appointed wt. their usual powers.

upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every matter & thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require an application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament from time to time upon every matter and thing that may be depending in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe that the burrows may write in that behalf to their several representatives, and likeways in all matters and things where applications to parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and conserting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of such a delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the 26th act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be upon Friday next at twelve a cloak in the New Kirk Isle, and appoint their clerks or deputs to give punctual attendance at all meetings of the committees, and declare that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to treat and vote in all matters that shall come before them as freely as if they were particularly named of this annual committee, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerk to call a meeting upon any emergent.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1747. Convention dissolved.

37. The same day the convention dissolved this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July iajvij & and fourty-eight years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

10 July 1747.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1747. Sederunt.

Edinbr., Thos. Allan & James Ker; Stirling, John Gib; Inverkeithing, John Cunningham; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Air, Thomas Garvine.

The which day the committee elected the lord provost of Edinbr. to be their preses.

The same day the committee taking to their consideration the thirteenth act of the last genl. convention relative to the cess of the burghs of barrony and regality, they recommend to their agent to meet with the lord advocat in order to frame a propper clause to be brought into the land tax bill which will render the levying the tax upon unfree traders more effectual in the terms of the said act of convention.

The same day the committee having considered a memorial or complaint by Mr John Cunningham, provost of Inverkeithing, agt. John Kirkaldie and Grindistoun, with the remit of the convention to them thereanent, they appoint their agent to lay the same before the lord advocat, and get his oppinion how far the several points complained of agt. the said John Kirkaldie are proven, and if proven, what punishment the committee can inflict upon him, by fyne or otherwise; and it being represented by the said Provost Cunningham that the said Grindistoun had made application to him that the proces depending agt. him should be submitted to the lord provost of Edinbr. and Mr Charles Cochran, commissioner for Culross, Mr Cunningham pray'd that the committee would authorize their agent to concurr in

their name and be a party in the submission. Which being considered by the committee, they impower their agent in their name to concurr and be a party in the said submission if the same takes effect; and in the meantime they appoint Mr Cunningham to lodge in the clerk's hands an accompt of what he has depursed in the proces against Grindistoun. EDINBURGH. 10 July 1747.

The same day the committee having considered the petition of the inhabitants of Brigtoun with the remit of the last convention to the burghs of Dysert, Kirkaldie, and Kinghorn, the committee add the burgh of Elgin to the other burghs @named, who are hereby appointed to consider the matters set forth in the said petition, and to report their oppinion to the annual committee thereanent.

The same day the committee having considered the thirty-second act of the last general convention appointing them to apply to parliament for an act for amending and explaining an act Parl. 1st, Cha. 2d., Sess. 3d., intituled an act concerning ruinous houses within burgh, they recommend to their agent to meet with the lord advocat to frame a propper clause to be brought into an act of parliament with respect to the said houses, and they delay'd the consideration of the other matters remitted to them untill the next meeting of the committee.

3 December 1747.

George Drummond, lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Alex. Lindsay & Geo. Cunningham; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Inverness, John Baillie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., ld. advocat; Air, Andrew Huntar. Sederunt.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the application made to the convention by the magistrats of Selkirk concerning an popular action raised agtt. them before the Court of Session, at the instance of an single burges or two within the burgh, for some frivolous and vexatious articles of pretended mismanadgments, with the remit of the convention to them thereanent, and they being inform'd that the Lords of Session have sustained proces against the said magistrats at the said pursuers' instance, and being fully satisfy'd that

EDINBURGH. 3 December 1747.

it is of the utmost concern to the state of burrows and the peace & quiet of the magistrats that all such vexatious lawsuits should be supprest, they appoint a reclaiming petition to be offer'd to the Lords of Session against the pursuers' titles; and incase their lordships shall adhere to their former interlocutor, the committee authorize their agent to appeal the said action to the right honble. the house of Peers at the expence of the burrows, and to lay out what money will be necessary for prosecuting thereof in the terms of the thirty-third act of the last general convention.

The same day the committee having considered the petition or memorial given in for William Huntar, master of the bleachfeild at Leven, complaining of his being stented for his said trade of bleeching, with the remit of the convention to them thereanent, they remit the consideration of that matter to lord provost of Edr. & the commissioners of the burghs of Edinbr. and Air, and they to report their oppinion thereanent.

19 December 1747.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, George Cunningham; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Elgin, Patrick Duff.

The which day the committee being inform'd that considerable quantitys of tobaccos, to the amount of fifty thousand pounds pr. annum, have been purchast in Scotland by the farmers general of tobacco in France by an indulgence granted to them by his Majesty at first breaking out of the war with France, beside the much greater quantitys purchast by them in England, which is a great benefit to the nation; and being apprehensive that this beneficial branch of trade may be crampt and stopt by the orders lately given by the Dutch to their ships of war, in consequence of the late declaration made by them against the French, whereby these tobaccos may be seiz'd as French propperty, notwithstanding that the ships which carry the same are possest of British passes, the committee doe therefor agree to make application to the ministry to have that tobacco trade preserved, as it is of evident

advantage to the whole United Kingdom; and for that end they approve of the draught of three letters, one to his grace the Duke of Newcastle, another to his grace the Duke of Argyle, and the third to the burrows' agent at London, which they appoint their preses to write in their name, and of which letters the tenors follow:— EDINBURGH. 19 December 1747.

Letter to the Duke of Newcastle.

My lord,—His Majesty, upon application from the traders to Virginia and Maryland, having been graciously pleased to allow the farmers general of tobacco in France to purchas in Britain what tobaccos they wanted, and to order passes to be granted to the ships employed in transporting the same, notwithstanding of Britains being in war with France, and the tobaccos on board them being French propperty.

This measure has been of verry great benefit to the nation of Brittain, great quantitys have been bought up by the farmers in England, and even from this poor corner of the Island tobaccos to the amount of £50,000 pr. annum have been exported from thence on their accompt.

The annual committee of the royal burroughs of Scotland are therefor verry sollicitous to have this indulgence to that trade continued, and being apprehensive that the orders which, they are informed, are given to the Dutch men of war and privateers to seize all goods of French propperty may deterr the farmers from purchasing any more tobaccos, least the ships carrying the same be seized by the Dutch notwithstanding of their having his Majesty's pass.

That this valuable branch of trade may not be crampt thereby, they have laid their commands upon me, as their preses, in their name humbly to pray your grace that this matter may be so settled with the States General that the ships employed in carrying such tobaccos having his Majesty's pass may not be interrupted on their voyage. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, my lord, your lordship's most humble and most obedient servant, *Sic subscribitur,*

Edinr., 19th Decer. 1747. Geo. Drummond, preses.

EDINBURGH. 19 December 1747.

Letter to the Duke of Argyle.

My lord,—By your grace's good offices, upon application from the tobacco traders, his Majesty was graciously pleased to allow the farmers general to purchas tobaccos in Britain, and to order passes to be given to the British vessells which should be imployed in carrying the same to France.

The reasons which were offer'd to his Majesty for granting this indulgence continue, great quantitys of tobacco have been exported from England, and even from Scotland to the amount of £50,000 pr. annum.

The annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland are extremely sollicitous that this indulgence to a trade which is so beneficial to the nation should not be crampt nor interrupted, and being apprehensive that in consequence of the late declaration of the States General their ships of war may carry up such ships loaded with tobaccos, the propperty of the French farmers, as they may happen to meet with, notwithstanding of their being furnisht with British passes.

They have therefor laid their commands upon me as their preses to represent the matter to his grace the Duke of Newcastle, that it may be settled with the States General soe as these vessells may not be interrupted on their voyage by any of the Dutch ships of war, and they humbly pray for your grace's good offices in the matter.—I have the honour to be, with greatest respect, my lord, your lordship's most humble & most obedient servant, *Sic subscribitur,*

Edinbr., 19th Decer. 1747. Geo. Drummond, preses.

Letter to Mr Willm. Hamilton.

Sir,—Upon an application from the traders in tobacco, upon the breaking out of the warr with France, his Majesty was graciously pleased to allow the farmers general of the tobaccos in France to purchas what tobaccos they wanted in Britain, and to export them in British vessells from thence as their own propperty, and to furnish the ships fraughted for that purpose with British passes.

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This indulgence has proved a verry great benefit to the nation, great quantitys of tobaccos have been exported from England under the favour thereof, and even from this corner of the island, to the amount of ffifty thousand pounds pr. annum, which makes the annual committee, who, yow know, have it in charge to watch over the intrest of their trade during the intervalls of convention, verry anxious to prevent its receiving any check.

Wee are apprehensive that the late declaration of the States General may discourage the French farmers from purchasing tobaccos least their ships of war seize such of the ships carrying tobaccos as they may happen to meet with, by reason of the tobacco being French propperty tho the ships are provided in British passes.

They have therefor ordered me in their name to represent the matter to his grace the Duke of Newcastle, and to pray his grace the Duke of Argyle his good offices therein, that the matter may be so settled with the States General that our ships with tobacco, provided with British passes, mayn't be interrupted in their passage by their ships of war.

These letters are forwarded by this post, and the committee pray that yow will be so good as follow out their application in concert with Messrs Gerard and Joshua Van Neck and Mr George Fitzgerald who, we have reason to beleive, are solliciting for the same thing on account of their trade of England.

I have likewise the committee's commands to pray of yow to keep a watchfull eye on the bill that's expected to be brought into parliament making some alterations in the tobacco, and endeavour to send us a coppy of it, so far as relates to tobaccos, as soon as it can be gott.—I am, wt. due respect, sr., your most humble servt., *Sic subscrib.*,

Edinbr., 19th Decer. 1747. George Drummond.

The same day the committee appoint their preses to meet with the present and late lord advocats and the sollicitor, and lay before them the memorial queries and answers drawn up relative to the unfree

EDINBURGH. 19 December 1747.

trade, and advise with them what is propper to be done toward making the ten pound laid upon the burghs of barrony and regality effectual, and to get a propper clause drawn for that purpose to be brought into the land tax bill, and to report their oppinion thereanent to ye committee.

3 February 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Alexander Lindsay and George Cunningham; Inverness, John Baillie; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Air, Andrew Huntar.

The same day the preses laid before the committee a representation made by the trustees and commissioners for improveing the manufactures of Scotland, which they have sent up to Mr Patrick Crawfoord, member of parliament, to be laid by him before the other Scots representatives, in order to apply to parliament for certain encouragments for promoteing the linnen manufacture of this country; and as the matter was of great concern to the nation, the trustees expected the concurrance and assistance of the annual committee and their agent at London in promoteing that application. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their preses in their name to write to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, to give all the countenance and assistance he can toward the obtaining the several particulars mentioned in the said representation enacted into a law, and for that end to wait on Mr Patrick Crawfoord when he shall be called on for that purpose; which letter was wrote accordingly.

15 March 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Alexander Lindsay and George Cunningham; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, Patrick Duff.

The which day there was presented to the committee a petition subscrived by a great many merchants and others trading betwixt the east coasts of Scotland and London, complaining that the coasts were

much infested with privateers, and thereby their trade and commerce much hamper'd and stopt for want of propper ships or sloops of war station'd on their coasts to protect their trade. Which being read, the committee appoint their preses to transmit the said petition to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, with instructions to him to apply to the lords of the admiralty for some ships of war to be stationed on this coast for that purpose.

EDINBURGH. 15 March 1748.

The same day the preses acquainted the committee that, according to their appointment of the third of December last, he had consulted the present and late lord advocats and sollicitor anent a propper clause for making the ten pounds laid on the burghs of barrony and regality effectual, and that Mr Robert Craigie had undertaken to draw the said clause, and if he could be prevaill'd with to finish it in a day or two, there might be yet some hopes of getting it carry'd into this year's land tax bill, which may possibly depend in parliament for some weeks before it is finished. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their agent to wait on Mr Craigie and press him to finish the draught of the said clause; and the committee being informed that their preses intends shortly to set out for London, they earnestly recommend to and impower him to use his utmost endeavours to get the said clause carry'd into the land tax bill, and doe every thing that may contribut to make the aforsaid proportion effectual.

17 March 1748.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Alexander Lindsay and George Cunningham; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Elgin, Patrick Duff. Sederunt.

The which day the conservator presented to the committee a letter he had received from his deput at Campvere acquainting him that in consequence of the staple contract he had procured a Zealands convoy for the trade now at Campvere, consisting of one doggar of fourteen guns, six pounders, and the other a fine snow of twelve guns, 6 & 9

EDINBURGH. 17 March 1748.

pounders, which are expected here the first fair wind, the one to run up to Leith Road with the ships for this firth, and the other to Aberdeen with the ships bound for the north coast; she that comes to Leith is to remain fourteen days to assemble the trade for the staple port, and that to Aberdeen fourty-eight hours to receive their vessells and the other vessells upon that coast, and the whole to join in Leith Road and soe proceed. Which letter being read, the committee appoint their preses to write to the burghs of Dundee, Aberdeen, Montrose, Inverness, Aberbrothock, Banf, Kirkaldie, and Borroustouness, acquainting them of the said convoy, and that as the same is procured in virtue of the staple contract by which the royal burrows are bound in the most solemn manner to land all staple goods at the staple port Campvere, which is their intrest as well as their duty to fullfill, if any ship who puts herself under this convoy lands in any other port of the provinces, the committee will reckon themselves oblidged to prosecut the shipmasters and merchants to the utmost for the breach of the staple upon the laws now in force anent it, and therefor to desire the magistrats of the aforsaid burrows to acquaint their respective shipmasters with this resolution; and to render it the more effectual, the committee furder appoint that a list of all the ships who saill under this convoy mentioning the ship and master's name be lodged in their clerk's hands, that he may give the conservator a coppy of it, to be sent to his dept., and to acquaint them that as the honour of the burrows is particularly concern'd in this matter, it would be expected the masters would comply therewith, and not expose themselves to any prosecution about it; which letters were wrote accordingly.

21 March 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edr., preses; Edinbr., Alexr. Lindesay and George Cunningham; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Cullen, Mr James Philp.

The which day the sub-committee appointed to consider the memorial given in by William Huntar, master of the bleachfeild near

EDINBURGH 21 March 1748.

the town of Leven, complaining that the magistrats and stentmasters thereof doe assess him for his trade of bleaching, notwithstanding he is neither a residenter in the said town nor has any trade in it, reported that they having considered the said memorial with a memorial given in by the baillie and stentmasters of the said town, and the answers made by William Huntar thereto, they fand by the said memorial of the baillie and stentmasters that the said Willm. Huntar does not reside in the said town, nor does he carry on any trade in it, other than the bleeching of cloath in the neighbourhead thereof, which of it self, the sub-committee were of oppinion, is not a sufficient reason to assess him in any part of the cess chargeable upon the said burgh, and therefor the sub-committee were of oppinion that the committee should write to the baillie and stentmasters to desist from the said practise as being oppressive, but prejudice to them to apply for an abatement of the quota chargeable upon the said town (incase it is overrated) at the meeting of the general convention in July next, or when the tax roll shall be taken under consideration. Which report being considered by the committee, they approve of the report and appoint their preses or clerk to write to the baillie and inhabitants of Leven in the terms thereof, which was done by the preses accordingly.

The same day the lord provost of Edr., the preses, laid before the committee a clause to be adjected to an act of parliament, framed by Mr Robert Craigie, advocat, for making the cess upon the unfree trade effectual. Which clause having been considered by the committee, they approve of the same, and in a particular manner recommend to the lord provost that so far as he had begun and carryed into execution an act of such importance to the royal burrows, his lordship would take the trouble upon his going to London to use his intrest to have the same added to the land tax bill; and altho the committee have no power of themselves to issue any sums of money, yet as this appears to the committee to be the most matteriall service that can be done to the royal burrows, they doe hereby recommend to the honble. the general convention of the royal burrows to grant to

EDINBURGH. 21 March 1748.

the said lord provost what sums of money shall be necessary and expended by his lordship in solliciting and procuring this clause to be adjected to an act of parliament and pass into a law.

The same day there was presented to the committee by David Flint, secretary to the trustees, a memorial concerning the dutys on forreign linning imported into Britain, and several proposalls for detecting of frauds at the importation thereof. Which being read to the committee, they recommend to Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to write to Mr William Hamilton, agent at London, incloseing a coppy of the said memorial, and to desire him incase a bill or bills are to be brought into parliament relating to linnen, that he use his endeavours to obtain the several particulars in the said memorial, & particularly the last passed.

The same day Mr David Flint also presented a letter direct to him from the linnen society at Glasgow, informing that a bill was intended to be brought into parliament for suppressing all haukers and mercht. travellers (who are generally Scots men) in England, which would be verry pernicious to the Scots manufactures now sold in that way in England. Which being read, the committee appoint Mr Hugh Forbes also to transmit a coppy thereof to their agent at London, desireing him to use his good offices to oppose any bill that may be brought in for suppressing of haukers and pedlars, by informing our members of parliament how destructive it will be to this country and the knights of the shire in England, that it will destroy all the fairs and mercats in England, which are not in royal burrows.

16 June 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan, d. gild, and James Ker; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, Peter Duff.

The which day the annual committee having considered the petition of Alexr. Graham and other inhabitants and merchants in Stromness, in the county of Orkney, presented in July last to the general convention

EDINBURGH. 16 June 1748.

of the royal burrows praying for a communication of trade, with the general convention's remit thereupon to the annual committee, answers made thereto for the inhabitants of the royal burrow of Kirkwall, additional petition for the merchants of Stromness offer'd in way of reply, answers made thereto for the inhabitants of Kirkwall in way of duply, together with a certificat under the hand of the propper officer certifying that the inhabitants of Stromness had been in use from the 1719 to 1742 to releive the town of Kirkwall of a certain proportion yearly of the tax roll and missive dues, and particularly in the 1742 they pay'd for and releived the town of Kirkwall of the sum of two hundred and four pound sixteen shilling Scots of their proportion of the tax roll, and it appearing to the committee that the town of Stromness since the year 1742 have had no decay in their trade, are therefor of oppinion that the town of Stromness should have the communication of trade given them upon the conditions following:— 1o. That they should pay in to the agent of the royal burrows toward the releiving of the town of Kirkwall the sum of two hundred and four pound sixteen shilling Scots for each year from July 1742 to July 1748 inclusive. 2do. That they shall become bound to pay yearly thereafter to the agent of the royal burrows towards the releif of the town of Kirkwall the just and equal third part of what the town of Kirkwall is presently stented in, or shall from year to year be stented in, both for cess and missive dues, and that the inhabitants of Stromness shall become bound, incase of the increase of their trade and decrease of the inhabitants of Kirkwall, to subject themselves to pay such furder proportion of cess & missive dues as any general convention of the royal burrows shall hereafter determine; and upon the inhabitants of Stromness their paying and becoming bound in manner abovementioned, the committee are of oppinion that the agent of the royal burrows should be authorized to enter into a contract of communication of trade with the said inhabitants, in which contract the above obligations shall be contain'd and all other ordinary and necessary clauses; but incase the inhabitants of Stromness shall refuse or delay to accept of the

EDINBURGH. 16 June 1748.

communication of trade in the above terms, the committee are of oppinion that the proces presently depending agtt. them before the lords as unfree traders, or any other proces that shall be judged necessary, shall be carryed on without delay untill a final determination be given therein.

4 July 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan; Aberdeen, William Chalmers; Glasgow, John Murdoch; Montrose, Mr George Ross; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie.

The committee having considered the petition given in to the last genl. convention by William Tod, mercht. in Edinbr., praying to be releived of certain sums partly advanced by him and partly agreed to be paid for promoteing the linnen manufacture of this kingdom by detecting the frauds committed at the importation of Dutch Hollands and Silesia lawns, and by obtaining an act of parliament for the bounty on British and Irish linnings exported, together with ane accott. of the said expence and the instructions thereof with the remit of the general convention to the committee thereupon, amounting the said accott. to two hundred seventy-three pounds eighteen shillings & 6d. sterl., and of which accott. the tenor follows:—

Money due to Mr Tod on accompt of an excheqr. tryal anent forreign linnings seized by Mr Tottingham.

1746.				
Janry. 29th	To cash paid George Tottingham, pr. recept, No. 1 - - - - -	£5	5	0
Augt. 24	Ditto paid Philip Carteret Webb, pr. 2 recepts, one for £50 & the other for £24, 1s., in all 74, 1, being one-half of the amount of Mr Web's bill - - - -	74	1	0

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Augt. 24	Ditto paid sd. Philip Carteret Webb, pr. recept, one-half of the amount of his bill in relation to the act for directing the payt. of the bounty on Irish & British linens, from page 1 to 6 - - -	£49	10	9
Nov. 4	Ditto paid said Philip Cartaret Webb, pr. recept, one-half of the damnage allowed by detaining goods seized to see the event of a tryal at Westminster Hall, No. 5 -	129	8	6
	Ditto paid John Good Child for coach hyre & expences and procuring papers from the customhouse, forwarding said tryall, No. 6	13	2	3
	Ditto paid Nathaniel Child his expences in coming to London to attend the said tryal	2	11	0
		£273	18	6

The committee are of oppinion that the sums contain'd in the above accompt was profitably laid out, and will tend greatly to the advantage of the nation in general and particularly to the royal burrows, and therefor are of oppinion that the same ought to be paid, and recommend to the annual convention to order payment thereof in such a way and manner as they shall think propper.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

5 July 1748.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thomas Allan & James Ker; Pearth, John Robertson; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, William Chalmers; Stirling, John Jeffrey; Linlithgow, Allan Wauch; St Andrews, John Loch; Glasgow, John Murdoch; Air, Andrew Huntar; Hadingtoun, William Ray; Dysert, Thomas Spence; Kirkaldie, John Currie; Montrose, George Ross; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, John Ewart; Inverness, John Frazer; Bruntisland, John

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748. Sederunt.

Haxtoun; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechine, John Knox; Irving, Mr James Boyle; Jedburgh, John Ainslie; Kirkudbright, John Milligane; Wigtoun, Patrick M'Kie; Pittenweem, Mr Willm. Stevenson; Dumferling, John Wilson; Anstr. Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, William Currie; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Willm. Wild; Aberbrothock, Alexr. Keith; Elgine, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Robert Balfour; Tain, John Davidson; Culross, John Rowland; Banf, Alexr. Innes; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Forfar, Charles Webster; Ruthglen, John Paterson; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, Andrew Thomson; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, James Chalmers; Sanquhar, James Crighton; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Kintoir, Robert Bruce; Inverury, Willm. Bruce; Kirkwall, John Riddoch; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (eleven burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses during the sitting of this present convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he having formerly qualifyed to his Majesty King George the Second as the law directs.

Committee on the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Montrose, Dumfreise, Inverness, Selkirk, Banf, Whithorn, North Berwick, Cullen, and Annan as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to this convention; and the convention having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the said commissions; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—John Jeffray for Stirling; John Gordon, junior assessor for Aberdeen; Allan Wauch, commissioner for Linlithgow;

William Currier, commissioner for Selkirk; Andrew Sloan for Air; John Paterson for Rutherglen; John Milligan for Kirkudbright; Thomas Douglas for Montrose; James Chalmers for Lochmabin; Alexander Keith for Aberbrothock; and Charles Webster for Forfar.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748. Committee on the commissions.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

2nd art. anent ye missive read.

Eodem die at 12 *a cloak.*

4. The committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they having heard and considered the commissions for the burghs of St Andrews, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Couper, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Brechin, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Peebles, Craill, Forfar, Rutherglen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, Queensferry, Kintoir, Inverury, Kirkwall, Inverbervie, and Stranraer, they were of oppinion that the whole of the said commissions should be sustain'd both as to commissioners and assessors. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and sustain the commissioners accordingly.

Commissions approven.

5. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for improveing fisherys and manufactories, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in the accott. of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders for two years preceeding July 1747, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Report of the trustees and cashier's accott. presented.

6. The same day John Murdoch, Esqr., commissioner for Glasgow, presented a petition to the convention in name of the magistrats and town councill of Glasgow, shewing that they had agreed on certain regulations for altering and amending the set of the said burgh, which had been communicated to the merchants and trades houses there, an extract of which was put into the clerk's hands with the said

Petition for Glasgow for an alteration of their sett committed.

EDINBURGH, 5 July 1748.

Petition for Glasgow for an alteration of their sett committed.

petition, and therefor craving the convention would consider the said regulations and interpose their sanction thereto, and appoint them to be recorded agreeable to the rules and practise of the convention. Which being considered, the convention remit the same to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Montrose, and Dumfreise to consider the said regulations, and they to report against next sederunt.

Eod. die.

Commissioners qualifyed.

7. The which day such of the commissioners and assessors whose commissions were approven of last sederunt and who had not qualifyed formerly to his Majesty King George the Second did qualify themselves by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, to wit—John Wilson, commissioner for the burgh of Dumferling, and David Gourley, assessor for the burgh of Kinghorn.

Commn. for Culross approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Culross to John Rolland, one of the present baillies yrof., they approve of the said commission.

Annl. missive remitted to a committee.

9. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named, to whom they add the burghs of Irving, Stranraer, Ranfrew, Inverbervie, Jedburgh, and Wigtoun.

Proceedings of the annl. committee approven.

10. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, and observing that the committee had been at verry great pains and trouble in taking care of the affairs of the burrows since the last convention, they therefor order their preses to return the committee the thanks of the convention, which was accordingly done; and they unanimously approve of their proceedings, only with regaurd to the sum of two hundred and seventy-three pounds eighteen shillings and sixpence sterling mentioned in the

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748.

Wm. Tod, expences at London committed.

sederunt of the committee of the fourth currant as expended by William Tod, merchant in Edinburgh, in carrying on an exchequer tryall anent a seizure of forreign linnen by Mr Totingham, with a report that the same was for the advantage of the nation in general and the estate of burrows and ought to be paid, the convention remit the consideration of this particular to the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Stirling, and they to report.

The alterations and amendments of the set of Glasgow approven.

11. The same day the committee appointed to consider the alterations and amendments proposed by the town of Glasgow to be made upon their sett and constitution reported that having maturely considered the regulations contain'd in an extracted act of the town councill of Glasgow, dated the fifteenth of April last, containing some variations of the sett of their town and constitution, were of oppinion that the same are agreeable to law and conducive to the intrest of that burgh, and therefor recommended to the convention to interpose their authority for making the same effectual, and to appoint their clerk to record the said regulations in the books of the general convention and declair them a part of the set and constitution of the city of Glasgow in time comeing. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report, and appoint the said regulations to be recorded in the book keept for recording the sets of the royal burrows, as also in the books of the general convention immediatly after the riseing of this convention, and declair the same to be a part of the sett and constitution of the town of Glasgow, and they to proceed accordingly in time coming.

Arrears of cess remit to a committee.

12. The same day the agent reported that the general receiver of the land tax had put into his hands a list of arrears of cess due by several burrows, craving the aid of the convention for making the said arrears effectual. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Edinbr., Glasgow, and Perth, at the riseing of this sederunt, to consider of and take the advice of the lord advocat what is propper to be done thereanent.

13. The same day the member for Glasgow moved that as several

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748.

A clause in the land tax bill to be apply'd for, and the preses appointed to negotiat the same.

difficultys had occurred for many years with regaurd to the ascertaining and making effectual the quotas payable by the burghs of barrony and regality accepting the communication of trade and other unfree traders who have not accepted, and it being found impracticable to procure a propper releif to the royal burrows by the execution of the laws now standing, and it appearing from the report of the committee that the only propper remedy would be by having a clause devised and inserted in the land tax bill, and seing the same has been prepared with great care after taking the best advice, he therefor moved that the said clause should be approved of, and the lord provost of Edinburgh, present preses, should be authorized and impowered by the convention in their name and at their expence to repair to London next session of parliament and sollicit the having the said clause, together also with a clause for summary poinding within the royal burrows and others subjected in payment of the cess, ingrossed in the annual land tax bill; and that the agent to the royal burrows should be authorized to pay the expence of solliciting and procureing the said clauses in the land tax bill, and of which clauses coppys are lodged in the clerk's hands and marked by the preses. Which being read and considered by the convention, they approve of the motion, and authorize the preses of this convention to repair to London next session of parliament upon the publick expence of the burrows and use his utmost endeavours to procure the said clauses enacted as part of the land tax bill in terms of the forsaid motion; and recommend to the several royal burrows to use their intrest with their representatives in parliament to concurr in procuring the same enacted accordingly, and authorize their agent to issue out the sums necessary for solliciting & procuring the said clauses enacted.

Act appointing the preses and conservator to repair to Holland and pay the respects of the royal burrows to the Statholder & sollicit for a prolongation of the staple contract.

14. The same day the member for Aberdeen made the following motion, that as the burrows enjoy that great priviledge of the staple trade of Campvere by contract with the magistrats of Campvere and Zeland, and as his serene highness the Prince of Orange is Marquiss of Campvere, and he and his family invested with the hereditary right of Statholder of Holland, he therefor moved that the lord provost of

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748.

Edinburgh, preses of this convention, and the lord conservator of the Scots priviledges should be authorized upon the publick expence to repair to Holland, and in name of the royal burrows of Scotland to pay their respects to his serene highness upon his admission to that dignity in the republick, which his predecessors had graced and enjoy'd to the great benefit of the libertys of Europ, and to use their joint endeavours to procure a confirmation of the said contract, and a furder prolongation of it for an other term of twenty-one years after expiration of the former contract. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said motion, and authorize their preses and the conservator to repair to Holland for the above purposes, and that upon the publick charge of the burrows, at such time as to them shall appear most propper; and they authorize their agent to issue out the sums necessary for the above purposes, not exceeding three hundred pounds sterling, both for solliciting the clauses mentioned in the former motion from Glasgow, and repairing to Holland for the purposes abovementioned.

300 lit. allowed for expence of both journeys to Londn. and Holland.

Act impowering Kirkaldie to few a part of their land called the South Commonty.

15. The same day a petition for the burgh of Kirkaldie was read, seting forth that part of the property lands of the said burrow, called the South Commonty, is and has been sett in tack for several years, yet the town have constantly sustain'd great loss by broken tennents, & that there is a reasonable view of procuring the same fewed out at the present rentall, which is ascertained to be one hundred and twenty-nine pounds Scots, by an extract of the revenues of the town produced; that such few would be greatly to the advantage of the burrow, but that they are advised it is not in their power to grant such a few without the interposition of the authority of the royal burrows, and therefor praying the convention would interpose their authority in the premisses. Which being consider'd by the convention, they authorize the magistrats of the said burgh of Kirkaldie to few out their said South Commonty at the sight and with the approbation and advice of the burghs of Dysert, Kinghorn, and Bruntisland, and appoint such few contracts as shall be granted to be reported to the next annual convention for their approbation.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1748.

Dysert authorized to excambion part of their land for a gardin belonging to ye Lord Stclair.

16. The same day a petition for the burgh of Dysert was read, craving liberty for excambing a smal parcell of ground belonging to the burgh for some other ground lying equally commodious to them, and that in order to enlarge a gardin to the Lord Sinclair near to where he intends to build a house, and seting forth that his lordship's residence in the neighbourhead of the burgh would be greatly to its advantage; craving therefor the convention would interpose their authority for making the said excambion effectual. Which being considered by the convention, they authorize the magistrats of Dysert to make the forsaid excambion with the Lord Sinclair, and to enter into and sign contracts of excambion with his lordship and other writes necessary, with the advice and approbation of the burghs of Kirkaldie, Kinghorn, and Bruntisland, and to report the same to the next annual convention for their approbation.

Committee to audit the agent's accompts.

17. The same day the following committee was appointed to audit and examin the agent's accompts and report, vizt.:—the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Stirling.

Memorial for Mr John Dundas committed.

18. The same day there was read a memorial for Mr John Dundas, presenter of signatures, seting furth that he had long enjoyed a gratuity of five pounds sterling yearly in virtue of his office and one pound to his clerk, that the same was discontinued in the year 1744, and craving that he might be reponed to the establishment, having constantly, both before and since the 1744, served the agent with a just coppy of the roll of all signatures, gifts, grants, or others passing in exchequer in order that he might advert to the intrest of the royal burrows and prevent any monopolies that might be granted to their prejudice. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee upon the agent's accompts.

6 July 1748.

Tayn's commissn. approven.

19. The which day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Tayne to Mr John Davidson of Whithouse, they approve of the commission.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1748.

Pittenweem's commn. approven.

20. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Pittenweem to William Stevenson, merchant and burges of the said burgh, they approve of the commission.

[21. Agent's accompt of unfree trade approven. 22. Agent's accompt of missive dues approven. 23. Annl. committee to consider of the arears of cess.]

Heads & articles of the missive continued.

24. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the present annual missive reported that they having considered the several heads of the missive were of oppinion that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, eight, ninth, tenth, twelveth, thirteenth, fourteen, fifteen, sexteen, eighteenth, and ninteenth articles of the missive should be continued, particularly the tax roll as it now stands, for one year untill July iajvij & and fourty-nine; and are of oppinion that the seventh article should be continued with this variation, in place of not in their several bounds, these words should be insert, within their several neighbourheads; and as to the eleventh and seventeenth articles, the committee remit the same to the consideration of the convention, to the end they may consider what furder clauses should be added thereto to force the due observance thereof; and they recommended to the convention to get abstracts made of the late act of parliament anent linnen yarn and to detect frauds by false tale, and to print the same, to the end they may be dispersed thro the whole countrys where linnen is made and yarn spun, to the end that those who spin yarn and make linnen for sale may not pretend ignorance; and having presented to them two memorials concerning the British linnen manufactures wherein are sundry hints, which in their oppinion may be conducive to the intrest of the royal burrows, doe give it as their oppinion that the convention should recommend it to the member for Glasgow to take these memorialls to Glasgow and cause transcribe them fair, with such amendments as the manufacturers in that place shall think propper, and then cause transmitt these fair coppys to the clerk of the convention, and that the agent should take care to have

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1748. Heads & articles of the missive continued.

the same printed and duplicats thereof forwarded to each burgh; and the committee furder reported that, in their oppinion, the lord provost of Edinburgh should be desired by the convention to send coppys of said printed memorials to the Duke of Argyle and all the members of parliament from Scotland, beseeching them in the most earnest manner to concurr with and support any measure that shall be judged reasonable to procure what is suggested in these memorials, or what part thereof they may be able to obtain passed into a law, and that each particular burgh doe in the strongest manner recommend the premisses to their rexive members; and furder that this affair be recommended as a propper object of the attention of the lord provost of Edinburgh and the city member. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint the several articles of the missive above mentioned to continue in full force for one other year; and that the seventh article should also be continued with the above proposed amendment; and appoint abstracts of the late act of parliament anent linning yarn and to detect frauds by false tale to be printed and dispersed thro the whole countrys where linning is made and yarn spun, that none may pretend ignorance; and recommend to the member for Glasgow to cause transmitt the abovementioned memorialls concerning the British linnen manufactures with such amendments as the manufactorers in that place shall think propper, and so soon as fair coppys thereof are transmitted to the clerk of the convention, they appoint their agent to cause print the same and transmit duplicats thereof to each burrow; and recommend to the lord provost to forward coppys thereof to his grace the Duke of Argyle and all the members of parliament from Scotland, intreating them in the most earnest manner to concurr with and support every measure judged most reasonable for procuring what is suggested in these memorialls, or what part thereof they may be able to obtain passed into a law, and appoint each burgh in the strongest manner to recommend the premisses to their respective members; and recommend this affair to the particular attention of the lord provost of Edinburgh and the city member.

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Annl. committee to consider a memorial anent ale-sellers.

25. The same day the member for Glasgow having presented a memorial to the convention containing an abstract of laws made anent licences to keepers of ale houses and tippleing houses, and for restraining abuses committed by dealers in that way, the convention remit the same to their annual committee, with full power to them to doe therein as shall appear to them most likely to promote the true intrest of the state of burrows and repress abuses committed by persons dealing in that way of trade, as retaillers of ale or spirituous liquors.

Wm. Huntar's memorial anent his bleachfeild remitted to ye annl. committee.

26. The same day the convention having heard a memorial from Willm. Huntar, master of a bleach feild near to Leven, complaining that the baillie and stentmasters there continue to assess him as if he was a trader subjected in payment of part of their cess altho he neither lives within their town nor daills in any sort of forreign trade, and notwithstanding the last annual committee to whom this affair was remitted gave it as their oppinion that he could not be assessed, and the same was duely notifyed to the baillie & stentmaster by a letter from their preses. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their annual committee with full power to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Act anent the burgh of Kirkwall & inhabitants of Stromness.

27. The same day the convention heard read a memorial from the burgh of Kirkwall containing an oppinion of the last annual committee with regard to the differences betwixt the said burgh and the inhabitants of Stromness, who, after a process brought against them before the lords, had apply'd to the last convention for a communication of trade, which being remitted to their annual committee to hear partys upon the trade of both places, and to determine therein as they should see cause, upon which furder procedure agt. the inhabitants of Stromness was stopt; and after several hearings before the said committee they gave forth their oppinion as contain'd in the minuts of the said committee touching the conditions upon which the inhabitants of Stromness should have the benefit of the communication of trade, and therefor praying the convention not only to ratify and approve of the oppinion

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1748. Act anent the burgh of Kirkwall & inhabitants of Stromness.

and judgment of the committee, but to grant warrand to the agent of the royal burrows, incase of the inhabitants of Stromness their delaying to pay and not accepting of the communication of trade in the terms offer'd them, to advance money for carrying on the proces presently depending agt. them, or such other processes as should be thought necessary for preventing their carrying on an illicite trade; and also to grant warrand to the agent to pay the expences debursed in the above proces carry'd on by authority of the convention, and with concourse of their agent as the prayer of the memorial bears; and the member for Kirkwall furder represented that incase the inhabitants of Stromness should be made lyable in the terms of the committee's oppinion, or Kirkwall releived of the sums made payable by and for the quotas of cess allotted as the proportion due by Stromness in releif of the burgh of Kirkwall, that he should engadge betwixt and the next convention to pay into the general receiver all the other arrears charged on the burgh of Kirkwall. Which being considered by the convention, they, upon the burgh of Kirkwall's paying to the general receiver all the arrears due by them but the proportion and sums contain'd in the committee's report to be paid by the inhabitants of Stromness upon their having the communication of trade, doe authorize their agent to use his utmost endeavours to make the committee's judgment effectual: which failzieing, to carry on upon the publick expence either the present or such other proces as shall be deem'd adviseable to be carry'd on agt. the inhabitants of Stromness dealing in any illicite trade, reserving the consideration of the expences already debursed in this matter untill the total conclusion thereof.

Agent to pay Whithorn 300 lit. Scots incase the annl. committee are satisfy'd with ye application yrof.

28. The same day the convention having heard a petition for the burgh of Whithorn seting forth that the last convention were pleased to appoint their agent to issue out the sum of twenty-five pounds sterling for repairing their harbour, incase the annual committee should be satisfyed that the doing so would turn out to advantage, that upon the faith of the said act the work was begun and carryed a considerable length, and therefor praying the agent may be appointed to issue out

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Agent to pay Whithorn 300 lit. Scots incase the annl. committee are satisfy'd with ye application yrof.

the said sum soe soon as the annual committee of this convention should be satisfyed that the doing soe would turn out to the benefit of trade, in the terms of the twenty-fourth act of last convention. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their agent to issue out the said sum of twenty-five pounds sterling for repairing the said harbour soe soon as the annual committee shall be satisfyed, in terms of the said twenty-fourth act of last convention.

Committee on Kirkudbright's application.

29. The same day the convention having heard a petition for the burgh of Kirkudbright seting forth that they have a servitud of common grasing upon a peice of ground called the Miln Fflatt, which as presently manadged turns out to little or no accompt, as also they are possest of some houses and yeards at a place called Milnburn, the rent of which was once one hundred pounds Scots per annum but now sunk to little or nothing and almost wholly consumed with annual repairs, and therefor praying the convention would interpose their authority, authorizeing them to sell their forsaid servitude of common grasing, as also to sell or few out the Milburn houses & yeards and apply the prices of both towards payment of the debts of the burgh, which are pretty large. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the burghs of Dumfreise, Annan, Wigtoun, and Whithorn, or any two of them, to enquire into what is represented, and to report their oppinion to the annual committee, with full power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Committee to consider the state of Pittenweem & report.

30. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Pittenweem seting forth their unhappy circumstances, ariseing by their contracting of debt in building a peer and other incidents, and that their annual expence exceeds their income, and therefor praying for ane ease in the tax roll, and that a committee should be appointed to inspect their peer, and upon their report the agent ordered to advance such sums as will be sufficient to repair the same before the winter come on. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same, together with the state of the affairs

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of the burrow, to the burghs of Anstruther Easter, Anstruther Wester, and Craill, or any two of them, to inquire and report to the next convention.

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Agent to pay Willm. Tod 273 lit. sterl. & 18s. 6d. at three payts.

31. The which day the committee to whom it was remit by this convention to consider of the accompt order'd to be paid to William Tod, how and by what proportions the same should be paid, amounting to two hundred & seventy-three pounds eighteen shillings and six pence, reported that they were of oppinion the agent should be ordered to pay the same by the proportions following, vizt.:—one hundred pounds thereof at and against July iajvij & and fourty-nine, ane other hundred pounds thereof at and against July iajvij & and fifty, and the remaining seventy-three pounds eighteen shillings and six pence sterl. at and against July iajvij & and fifty-one years; but were of oppinion that for hereafter no sum or sums of money should be paid to any person or persons for or on accompt of any depursements they shall be at unless they have the authority of the convention therefor. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report, and appoint the agent to pay to the said William Tod the said sum of two hundred seventy-three pounds eighteen shillings and six pence sterling at and against the several times and by the proportions mentioned in the said report; and they declared that for hereafter no sum or sums of money shall be paid to any person or persons depurseing the same for or on accompt of the royal burrows unless such person or persons shall have the authority of the convention of the royal burrows for so doing.

The 10th & 11th articles of the missive alter'd.

32. The same day the convention having resumed the consideration of the tenth and eleventh articles of the missive, they ordered the same to be struck out, and that the articles following shall be insert and ingrossed in the missive in place thereof, vizt.:—article 10th, That the magistrats of each royal burrow cause put the act of parliament anent the uniformity to be observed in the standart of the reel of worsted

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The 10th & 11th articles of the missive alter'd.

yarn to due execution, and that the same uniformity be observed in the standart of the reel of linnen yarn, and that no person or persons whatsomever shall sell or expose to sale, or import into Scotland, or carry or transport from one part of Scotland to an other, any linnen yarn other than such as is made up in cutts and hasps or hanks, each hasp or hank consisting of twelve cutts and no more, and each cutt containing one hundred and twenty threeds all exactly number'd and no more, and that all the yearn contain'd in the said hasp or hank be lint yarn, or tow yearn only, and of the same collour and fineness, and that no tow yarn and lint yarn be mixed together in one and the same hasp or hank, and that the several directions made thereanent in the 13th act of his late Majesty be strictly observed under the penaltys therein specifyed. 11th, That the magistrats of each royal burrow shall cause the forsaid act of parliament to be put to due execution with respect to the measure to be observed in the retaill of lintseed, being the Linlithgow wheat firlot straiked, and likeways with respect to the selling of damnifyed, mixed, or bad lintseed, and the rexive commissioners of the burrows report their dilligence thereanent at each convention, under the penalty of one hundred pounds Scots to be paid by them *toties quoties.*

The 17th article of the missive struck out & in place of it an act against smugling.

33. The same day the convention having likeways resumed the consideration of the seventeenth article or head of the missive, they ordered the same to be struck out, and in place thereof the following article to be ingrossed in the missive:—The general convention being deeply concern'd for the intrest of the country, and justly sensible of the many pernicious consequences of the smugling forreign commodities, particularly French brandy, not only to the prejudice of the publick revenue and morals of the people, but to the great discouragment of the consumpt of the grouth of our native country, whereby the landed as well as trading intrest of the nation is made to suffer, and being sensible that the near prospect of a peace may verry probably engadge the dealers in that infamous traffick to renew the same with vigour, which cannot miss to be attended with a decrease of the value of our own barley, wt. the furder misfortune of withdrawing a considerable

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1748. The 17th article of the missive struck out & in place of it an act against smugling.

part of the shiping of this country from a lawfull and profitable commerce and involving them in a distructive and illicit trade, to the irrepairable prejudice of the beneficial manufacture of our own spirits, but yet in its infancy altho thriving to a wonder, since the war with France made the difficulty and risq of smugling brandy next to unsurmuntable, and so far raised the price of that commodity that necessity at length has taught our deluded countrymen what neither reason nor intrest could convince them of before, that our own spirits are almost as pallatable and much more wholsom than the French brandy; and being sollicitous to prevent our countrymen from relapsing into the infamous practise of smugling, the convention doe therefor unanimously resolve to use all their intrest and every power wherewith they are intrusted by law to repress and if possible crush the ruinous practise of smugling, and for this end doe hereby authorize and require their annual committee in their name to apply to the honble. commissioners both of customs and excise, that they would give orders for puting the laws against smugling, especially of French brandy, to a most rigorous execution, and particularly that they would cause prosecut the harbourers of smugled goods and bring to condemnation boats and other vessells, horses and all sorts of carriages wherein such smugled goods are catcht and found, it being certain that this infamous traffick could not have been carry'd on unless some of the country people themselves had been so far infatuated as to lend their aid and assistance to smuglers, equally to the prejudice of landlord and tennent; and they furder impower their annual committee to request both honble. boards that they would give directions to their officers when they apply to any magistrats or justices of the peace for warrands of condemnation of smugled goods, that they should at the same time lodge a sign'd declaration mentioning where and in what manner they seized such goods, in whose custody they were found in, whose boats, carts, carriages, or upon whose horses, to the end that all aiders & assisters in this distructive practise may be duely prosecuted; and furder the convention doe appoint their agent to cause print a short abstract of the

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The 17th article of the missive struck out & in place of it an act against smugling.

penal laws against smugling, and transmit several coppys thereof to each of the royal burrows in Scotland and such burghs of regality & barrony as have accepted of the communication of trade, whose magistrats are hereby required to disperse the same and keep one coppy thereof always affixt upon their several mercat crosses; and the convention doe furder declair that if any burrow is found remiss or negligent in useing every propper mean for preventing the smugling of forreign commodities, and especially French brandy, such burrow will fall under the highest displeasure of the convention; and ordain this act to be printed and transmitted to all the royal burrows in Scotland and such burghs of regality & barrony as have accepted of the communication of trade, that none may pretend ignorance; and they appoint their agent to cause print the saids three acts together with abstracts of the penal laws against smugling and to transmit sufficient numbers of coppys thereof to each royal burrow and other burghs that have accepted of the communication of trade without loss of time, and they appoint this last act or article of the missive or an abstract thereof to be published in the Edinbr. news papers.

Complaint, Mr John Cunningham referr'd to ye annl. committee.

34. The same day there was a petition presented to the convention by Mr John Cunningham, advocat, provost of Inverkeithing, shewing that one John Kirkaldie stands suspended by the last honble. convention for high misdemaners committed by him at an election of the burgh of Inverkeithing, and likeways for contempt of the authority of the royal burrows; that notwithstanding this suspension, the town councill of Inverkeithing, in manifast and open contempt of the authority of the convention, did in the morning of the sixth currant take the opportunity when a great many of the members were absent to repone the said John Kirkaldie to his office of being a councillor, without any application from him to the royal burrows as was directed by the last convention, and therefor praying the convention to impower their annual committee to take cognizance of the premisses and to give orders and directions how the authority of the royal burrows shall be mentain'd by hindering the said John Kirkaldie to appear in councill. Which being considered by

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the convention, they continue the suspension of the said John Kirkaldie as a councillor of the burgh of Inverkeithing untill the same is removed and taken of by the annual commity or next convention, and they remit to the annual committee to consider of what is represented, and doe therein as they shall see cause; and appoint the said John Kirkaldie and such of the members of councill as reponed him to be served with a coppy hereof, to the end they may appear before the annual committee on such day as they shall appoint, to show cause why they proceeded in the manner abovementioned.

Absent burghs fyned in 100 lit. each.

35. The same day the convention considering that the burghs of Dumbarton, Tain, Rothesay, Nairn, New Gallaway, Dingwall, Dornock, Fortrose, Inverary, Wick, and Campbeltoun have not this convention sent up their commissioners in the terms of the missive, therefor they fyne & amerciat the saids burghs in one hundred pounds Scots each, to be paid in by them to the agent for the use of the burrows, and appoint the agent to doe all propper dilligence for recovery thereof.

Annual committee appointed wt. their usuall powers.

36. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Inverkeithing, Irving, Wigtoun, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Queensferry, Inverbervie, & Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and

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Annual committee appointed wt. their usuall powers.

impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have speciall authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July iajvij & and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on Ffriday next at eleven a cloak in the forenoon at this place, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present att all the meetings of the said committee, & to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses, they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

Agent to pay sallarys.

37. The same day the convention appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterl. of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterl. of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterling of sallary; to William Grant, Esqr., his Majesty's advocat, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pounds sterling; to Mr William Hamilton, agent at London, twenty-five pounds sterling of sallary; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver

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Agent to pay sallarys.

general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, clerk deput, twenty pounds sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, for his sallary and writings, thirty pounds sterling of sallary; to John Johnstoun, burrow officer, twenty pounds sterling of sallary, and four pounds sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, sixty pounds Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pounds Scots; to the gardiner of Herriot's hospitall for flowers, twelve pound Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pounds Scots; and to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pounds Scots of supply dureing her life.

Convention dissolved.

38. The same day the convention dissolved this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July iajvij & and fourty-nine years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Regulations and alterations of the sett of Glasgow, appointed to be recorded by the eleventh act of the foregoing convention.

Att Glasgow, the fifteenth day of April one thousand seven hundred and fourty-eight years, the which day the magistrats and town councill conveened. The committee nominated by a former act, dated the eight of April instant, for considering what alterations and amendments may be propper to be made in the sett of the town, reported that the constitution of the town councill of Glasgow has been long complained of as having a tendency to continue the government of the city in a particular sett longer than may be for the publick intrest, there being some times difficulty to get the more creditable burgeses to accept of offices, and time and experience having discovered sundry defects in the former constitution, the following alterations and amendments are humbly submitted and reported by the committee to whom this affair

has been remitted, to take effect at Michaelmas 1748, and to be observed in all time coming, vizt.:— EDINBURGH. 7 July 1748.

Regulation first.

That the late provost and baillies and the last elected dean of gild and deacon conveener shall necessarly continue and be of the ordinary councill without election the year after their having been in or exerced their rexive offices.

Regulation 2d.

That the two senior merchant and two senior trades councillors not being in the magistracy (excepting always the last year's provost and baillies, together with the last elected dean of gild and conveener) shall necessarly be disqualifyed annually from being in the councill for the space of three years allennarly, and that the like number of the same rank be chosen or filled up in their places at the time and in the manner to be condescended on in the immediatly subsequent article; but in regaurd hitherto the number of new members brought yearly into the councill has not been fixed or uniform, and that three or more of the present members of one rank may decline accepting the office of councillor, for compelling of whom there is at present no provision, and that hereafter some of the senior councillors forsaid by being in the office of magistracy or having been magistrats, dean of gild, or deacon conveener the preceeding year may be necessary or constituent members of the councill, whereby it shall happen that there may be only one merchant or trades councillor exclusive of the necessary members above said older elected than all the rest of his rank, and that after his being disqualifyed there may be two or more of that rank who have been equally long in councill, or it may happen that three or more councillors of the same rank have been brought in at one election: it is provided that soe oft as any of these cases or cases of the like nature shall occurr, when only part of the councillors elected at one time need to be dropt in order to make up the number of two of each rank necessary to be

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disqualified as above, it shall be in the power of the twelve electors hereafter mentioned to determine by plurality of voices which of these two or more councillors elected at one time are to fall off from the councill for that year, two of each rank being necessarly to be disqualifyed annually, whose places are to be filled up in the manner to be hereafter prescribed; and such of the senior councillors as are not disqualifyed or continued on the above account for that year shall be the first who are to fall off and necessarly goe out of the councill the election immediatly subsequent, at least so soon as they cease to be necessary councillors in consequence of the regulation forsaid.

Regulation 3d.

That upon the first Friday after the election of magistrats in October 1748, and yearly thereafter on that day, the three sets of magistrats who, by the original constitution of the burgh, have the power to choose these who are to bear office as councillors conveen within the town hall at four in the afternoon, the dean of gild and conveener being warned personally or at their dwelling houses to be present with them, and after filling up the places of such of the electors as are dead, absent, or who have been two years in one office, or born two offices, to make up the full number of twelve, the dean of gild and conveener if at the meeting forsaid being always to be electors in room of such of their respective ranks whose places are to be filled up as above, and after having a list laid before them by the town clerk of the members of the last year's councill, distinguishing each year when they were last brought into councill, these twelve electors are to fill up and choise thirteen merchants and twelve tradesmen, who with the provost and three baillies are to make the ordinary councill of twenty-nine for the year subsequent in the manner following, vizt.:—the thirteen merchant councillors are to be composed of the last year's provost (when not re-chosen), the two merchant baillies for the preceeding year, the last elected dean of gild, who, incase he has been an extraordinary member of councill in the

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former year, is to supply and fill up the room of one of the new merchant councillors, and that whether he has been newly elected into the office of magistracy or not, and of an other new councillor of the merchant rank to be chosen by plurality of voices as above, who with the said dean of gild in the event forsaid are to come in place of the two senior merchant councillors necessarly to be disqualifyed and fall off from the councill by the second regulation before set down; but incase the last elected dean of gild has been of the ordinary councill of twenty-nine the preceeding year, the said twelve electors are by plurality of voices to name and choose two new merchant councillors in place of the two senior members of that rank to be disqualifyed as above expressed, and so many of the junior or latest elected merchant councillors for the preceeding year not being at the time in the office of magistracy, or having been magistrats or dean of gild the immediatly preceeding year, as with the necessary and new elected councillors above said, shall make up the number of thirteen exclusive of the provost and two merchant baillies are to continue and remain members of the councill for the merchant rank the year ensueing; and as to the twelve trades councillors, they are to consist of the persons following, vizt.:—the immediatly preceeding year's baillie of that rank, the last elected conveener, who, incase he has been an extraordinary member of councill in the former year, is to supply and fill up the room of one of the new trades councillors, and that whether he has been newly elected into the office of magistracy or not, and of another new councillor of the trades rank to be chosen by plurality of voices as above, who with the said conveener in the event forsaid are to come in place of the two senior trades councillors necessarly to be disqualifyed by the second regulation above written; but incase the last elected conveener has been of the ordinary councill of twenty-nine the preceeding year, the saids twelve electors are by plurality of votes to name and choose two new trades councillors to supply the place of the two senior members of that rank to be disqualify'd as above expressed, and so many of the junior or latest elected trades councillors for the preceeding year not being at the time a baillie

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or having been baillie or conveener the immediatly preceeding year, as with the necessary and new elected councillors above said, shall make up the number of twelve exclusive of the trades baillie at the time are to continue and remain members of the councill for the craftsmen rank the year ensueing; declairing always that the said twelve electors shall furder have liberty and are hereby appointed to fill up the places of such of the preceeding year's councill who have dyed in that time or refused to accept their offices, and whose seats have not been filled up by the councill in terms of the original sett, and that over and above the four new councillors to be annually elected and filled up as before specifyed; and that there is to be no furder change in the councill any one year than by filling up or choiseing two new merchant and two new trades councillors in place of these to be disqualifyed as aforsaid, or supplying the room of such as are dead or have refused to accept in the preceeding year incase the seats of the latter have not been filled up by the councill as beforementioned; declairing always that in regaurd a good number of the merchant councillors elected in October last, 1747, have not accepted of their offices, ffor which as before noticed there is at present no compulsitor, it shall be permitted that in October 1748 at filling up the ensuing year's councill incase two or more of the persons chosen councillors for this currt. year shall continue to decline acceptance, the twelve electors before named may only fill up or nominat new councillors in place of those who have not accepted the preceeding year, without being oblidged to disqualify at that election only the two senior accepting councillors of that rank in terms of the second regulation aforsaid.

Regulation 4th.

That the baillie for the village of Gorbells is to be chosen out of a lyte of the merchant rank and trades rank per vices, with liberty to the councill to nominat them out of their own number or not, and to conjoin ane other baillie for the village & barrony as they shall judge expedient.

EDINBURGH.
7 July 1748.

Regulation 5th.

That every person hereafter elected or continued a councillor shall be oblidged to accept of his office on the day whereon the dean of gild and conveener are chosen, if not confined with sickness or necessarly absent, or at furdest in three moneths after his election, and that any person chosen or continued to be a councillor refuseing or neglecting to accept as said is shall by the magistrats & councill at their first meeting after the first day of January yearly be fined and amerciated in the sum of twenty pound sterling, payable to the collectors of the merchants and trades houses respective for the behoof of their poor according to the rank which the refuseing or neglecting councillor shall be of; and the said respective collectors are to be oblidged between and the Whitsonday ensueing to produce a certificat under the hands of the dean of gild or conveener respectively of their having accounted for the said several fines, or that the same are placed to their debites with the several houses, otherways the said rexive collectors shall be oblidged to pay the same to the town treasr. for the use of the burgh, with one-fifth part more for their neglect in levieing the said fines, without prejudice to the councill in case any number of councillors decline accepting and choose to pay the above fine, to fill up their places agreeable to the original sett; and declairing always that if any person shall make payment of the above fine for not accepting to be a councillor, he shall not be again compellable to accept of that office.

Regulation 6th.

That every person who shall be hereafter elected provost, one of the baillies, dean of gild, deacon conveener, or treasurer shall, on his refuseing or declineing to accept or exerce any of the saids offices, at the first meeting of the councill after the election of the dean of gild be fined and amerciat by the magistrats and town councill in the sum of fourty pounds sterling, payable to the collectors of the merchants and trades houses rexive for the behoof of the poor according to the rank which the

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1748.

refuseing or neglecting office bearer shall be of, with certification that if the said respective collectors doe not produce, within three moneths after an extract of the sentence for the said fines shall be put into their hands, a certificat from the dean of gild or conveener rexive of their having accounted for the said several fines, the said respective collectors shall be oblidged to pay the same, with one-fifth part more for their neglect in levieing thereof, to the town treasurer for the use of the burgh; and this article with the immediatly preceeding one to be read annually in the merchants and trades houses at their first meeting after electing the dean of gild and conveener.

Regulation 7th.

That incase of the decease of the provost, any of the baillies, or treasurer dureing the time of their being in office, the magistrat to whom belongs the right of presideing in and conveening the councill, who is declared to be the first magistrat in the place at the time, shall call a councill within ffourty-eight hours after such death, and there intimat the inconveniency and necessity of supplying the vacant office, and at that diet ane other councill shall be appointed, not under four nor above eight days distance from the former, for electing an office bearer in place of the magistrat or treasr. deceased, and shall appoint the whole members of councill to be warned for that effect; at which second meeting lytes shall be made up as is presently practised at electing these office bearers (excludeing the magistrats at the time, or any other debarred from being elected into any of these offices rexive by the original sett), out of which lytes the office vaccant as aforsaid is to be supplyed, and the person newly elected to have the same powers and priviledges with his immediat predicessor in whose office he shall be chosen; and incase of the death of a dean of gild or conveener dureing their being in these offices, the immediatly preceeding dean of gild and conveener on life within fourty-eight hours after such decease are to conveen their rexive houses, who are to appoint a new meeting of their several members to be conveened and propperly warned, not under four

or above eight days distance from the former diet, whereof the provost or presiding magistrat is to be acquainted, at which last meeting a lyte of three persons shall be elected by majority of votes to be presented by the two houses respective according to the rank of the person deceased in the same manner as has been hitherto practised at electing the dean of gild or conveener the first year of their offices, and immediatly after the houses have voted the said lytes rexive, the presideing magistrat is to call and conveen the town councill and deacons of crafts in the same form and method as has been hitherto observed on occasions of that nature, and the persons who by law or practise have right to choose a dean of gild or conveener shall by plurality of voices (the provost or preses having the first as also a casting vote) elect that office bearer out of the lytes forsaid according as the office shall happen to be vaccant by death as said is, and the person soe to be elected shall have the same powers and priviledges which his immediat predicessor had when on life; declairing also that incase of any persons not accepting of any of the said offices within a moneth after their election, the councill are to proceed and make choise of an other office bearer in their place, observing the forms and regulations before sett down in the event of their decease.

Regulation 8th.

That the original set and constitution of the burgh, so far as not altered, amended, or repealed by the present regulations, shall continue and remain in full force till a propper and legal alteration be made therein; and that this present plattform and rules therein set down shall be observed inviolably till alter'd by the city councill with consent of the merchants and tradeshouses, and shall be publickly read in presence of the councill annually, immediatly before they proceed to the election of magistrats. Which report above written being read in presence of and duely considered by the magistrats and councill, they agreed thereto, and approved and hereby approve thereof, and ordain the same to take effect and to be observed for the future according as is above mentioned,

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1748.

and remit to the magistrats to order coppys of the above report to be given into the dean of gild and deacon conveener to be laid by them before their respective houses. Extracted upon this and the preceeding nine pages by *Sic subscribitur,*

Jo. M'Gilchrist, dpt. clk.

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

8 July 1748.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1748. Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, James Ker; Aberdeen, William Chalmers; Air, Andrew Slowan; Irving, Mr James Boyle; Innerkeithing, John Cunningham; Wigtoun, David Baird; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple.

The which day the committee elected George Drummond, Esqr., present provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Act agt. smugling.

The same day the committee having considered the twenty-eight act of the last general convention anent the suppressing of smuglers, they appoint their preses and such other members of the committee as are in town to wait on the commissioners of the customs and excise and lay the said act before them, how soon the samen and the laws against smugling are printed.

Complt., Cunningham agt. Kirkaldie & oyrs.

The same day the committee having considered the petition of Mr John Cunningham against several members of the councill of Inverkeithing for reponeing John Kirkaldie to his vote in councill, with the remit of the last general convention to the committee thereanent, they appoint the members of the councill complain'd of and the said John Kirkaldie to be summoned to answer the said petition against next meeting of the committee, and for that end they appoint them to be served with a coppy of the said petition.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1748.

Remit anent the harbour of Whithorn.

The same day the committee having considered the petition of the magistrats of Whithorn for the aid of the convention toward repairing their harbour, with the remit of the convention to them thereanent, they remit to any of the neighbouring burrows or justices of peace to inspect the said harbour and report if the money laid out on the said harbour is for the benefit of trade.

3 September 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan & James Ker; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Wigtown, David Baird; Whithorn, Mr John M'Gowan.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter from the provost of Glasgow covering considerations anent the linnen manufacture. Which being read, the committee appoint the same to be printed and coppys yrof. to be sent to each royal burrow and to all the burghs of barrony and regality who have accepted of the communication of trade, and also appoint their preses to transmit coppys thereof to his grace the Duke of Argyle and to the Scots members of parliament, intreating them to give their assistance to promote the good purposes therein proposed; as also they appoint the act of convention against smugling to be insert in both the Edinburgh news papers, and coppys thereof and of the abstract of the laws against smugling to be printed and sent to the haill royal burrows and burghs of barrony and regality, that the magistrats thereof may use their utmost endeavours to suppress that pernicious practise so hurtfull to the nation.

6 September 1748.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

Act anent the staple port & ye improvemt. yrof., &.

The which day the conservator laid before the committee a letter from Charles Stewart, his deput, representing his hopes of success with

EDINBURGH. 6 September 1748.

Act anent the staple port & ye improvemt. yrof., &.

regaurd to any proposalls that could be made to his serene highness the Statholder by the deputys of the royal burrows for the advantage of the trade of Scotland to their staple. Which being read, the committee appoint the subjoin'd letter to be sent to the burghs of Stirling, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness, Montrose, Elgin, Bamf, Aberbrothock, and Dumfreise, that they may suggest to the deputys such priviledges as shall appear to them most for the advantage of our trade in the Netherlands, and recommend to the deputys to use their utmost endeavours for obtaining the same; and the committee being convinced that the said Charles Stewart not only knows the whole branches of trade carry'd from Scotland to the Netherlands, but is himself soe well known to the people of rank about his serene highness that he must be acquaint with the channalls by which success may be hoped for in such applications, and soe may be of great use to the deputys in the conduct of all their affairs, therefor the committee doe recommend it to the lord provost of Edinbr. and the conservator to make choise of the said Charles Stuart for secretary to their deputation, and they being present agreed with the recommendation.

& to imploy Charles Stewart as secretary to the deputys.

Follows the letter sent by the preses to the burrows abovenamed.

Edinbr., 7th Septr. 1748.

Letter.

Gentlemen,—The conservator has communicated to the annual committee a correspondance of his, by which wee have reason to beleive that if any thing can be proposed that may be advantagious to the trade of this country deliver'd at the staple port it will be granted.

The lord provost of Edinbr. and the conservator intend (God willing) to set out to execute their deputation from the convention about the middle of October, wherefor wee think propper to advise yow to conveen such of your merchants as trade to the Netherlands, that they by a memorial may transmitt to the annual committee any hardships upon their trade they wish to be removed, or any new priviledges they wish to be procured, that your committee may recommend it to your deputys to endeavour to obtain them.—Wee are, &., Geo. Drummond, preses.

25 October 1748.

EDINBURGH. 25 October 1748 Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., preses; Edinburgh, Robert Montgomery, d. gild, and George Cunningham; Inverness, John Baillie; Cullen, Mr John Philp; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton.

The which day the annual committee elected George Drummond, Esquire, to be their preses.

The same day the annual committee having taken into their consideration the resolution of the last general convention, of date the fifth day of July last, appointing George Drummond, their preses, and Archibald M'Aulay, Esquire, lord conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, to repair to Holland in order to treat of a confirmation and prolongation of the staple contract betwixt the royal burrows and the magistrats of Campvere, and also to congratulat his serene highness the Prince of Orang upon his admission to the rank and dignity of Stadtholder; and the said commissioners having represented that by appointment of the lords of the admiralty one of his Majestie's sloops of war is ready in the Road of Leith to carry them to Holland, and that they are ready with the first fair wind to proceed, that nothing detains them but the want of their commissions and the three last staple contracts which are necessary for them to carry to Holland. Which being considered by the annual committee, they, by virtue of the powers granted to them by the general convention, doe in conformity to the said resolution of the convention appoint their clerks to extend their commissions seperatly in the form and tenor following, vizt.:—

> In the general convention of the royal burrows in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, holden at the burgh of Edinburgh, upon the fifth day of July one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight years, by their commissioners therein conveen'd.

The which day the general convention of the royal burrows embrace with pleasure this first opportunity of sending deputys to congratulat his

EDINBURGH. 25 October 1748.

serene highness the Prince of Orange and Marquiss of Campvere upon his being promoted to the high rank and dignity of Stadtholder of the United Provinces, and to testify the great joy and satisfaction they have in that promotion and in the settlement of it in the family of his serene highness, which was so gloriously mentain'd by his illustrious predicessors, have therefor nominated, deputed, and appointed, and hereby nominat, deput, and appoint the right honourable George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of the city of Edinburgh, preses of this convention, and the honble. Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, to repair with all convenient dispatch to the court of his serene highness the Prince of Orange and Marquiss of Campvere, and in name of this convention to complement him upon his just admission into that high dignity of Stadtholder, which gave them the greatest joy and satisfaction, in full confidence that his serene highness will be (as his illustrious predicessors were) an ornament to the state over which he presides, a protector of the libertys of Europe, and amongst other rights, the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands; and wee hereby appoint our clerks to certify this deed by adhibiting their subscriptions, and as usual by appending the seall of the city of Edinburgh, the metropolis of Scotland.

Follows the commission for prolongation of the staple contract.

Eod. die.

The general convention of the royal burrows having taken to their consideration their staple contract with the honble. magistrats of Campvere, observed that this contract was extremly ancient, preserved with great amity and benevolence between the rt. honble. and respectfull magistrats of Campvere and the state of burrows, in which ancient contracts the illustrious Princes of Orange and Nassau were parties, and these confirm'd by the most noble regency of the state of Zealand. That as the subsisting contract wants to be ratify'd and approved by his serene highness the Prince of Orange, Marques of Campvere, they judge it necessary to have this contract confirm'd in all its particulars

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by his said serene highness and the states of Zealand, and prolonged for such a space of time as shall be required by the magistrats of Campvere, or thought fit and convenient by his serene highness the Prince of Orange, Stadtholder of the United Provinces, & Marques of Campvere, and most noble lords the states of Zealand, therefor they, for promoting so good purposes and confirming the priviledges of the royal burrows, being well satisfied of the abilitys of the rt. honble. George Drummond, Esquire, lord provost of Edinburgh and preses of this convention, and of the honble. Archibald M'Aulay, lord conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, doe hereby commission, authorize, and appoint the said lord provost of Edinburgh and lord conservator, with the concurrance of the verry honble. the magistrats of Campvere, to wait on his serene highness the Prince of Orange, Marquiss of Campvere, and after representing the great joy and satisfaction the royal burrows have of his having attained the rank and dignity of Stadtholder of the republick of Holland so gloriously mantained by his illustrious predicessors for the honour of the state in which he presides & the libertys of neighbouring nations, to use their endeavours in conjunction with the magistrats of Campvere to obtain from his serene highness, Marquiss of Campvere, a ratification of the present subsisting contract and a furder prorogation of the same, in such terms and for such a space of years as shall be agreed upon between the honble. magistrats of Campvere and the commissioners abovenamed; and they hereby appoint their clerks to certify this deed by adhibiting their subscriptions, and as usual by affixing thereto the seal of the city of Edinburgh, the metropolis of Scotland.

The same day the committee authorize and appoint their clerks to deliver up to the conservator and George Drummond, Esqr., late provost of Edinburgh, the three last staple contracts, vizt.—the contract, 1697; the prolongation thereof, 1718; and the prolongation & amplication thereof in the 1736, upon their recept and oblidgment to deliver the back ye same upon their return from Holland.

EDINBURGH. 25 October 1748.

Act appointing the agent to pay to Whithorn £300 Scots.

The same day the committee having considered the remit of the last convention to them concerning the harbour of Whithorn, with the report of the commissioners of the burghs of Kirkudbright and Wigtoun and the report of two of the justices of peace of that county, and also the report of the surveyor and customhouse officers of Wigtoun, concerning the reparation of the said harbour and the provision of materials propper for that work, they in respect of the said reports appoint their agent to pay to the said burgh of Whithorn the sum of three hundred pounds Scots for the reparation of the said harbour in the terms of the last act of the general convention made thereanent.

13 January 1749.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan & George Cunningham; Air, Andrew Huntar; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Inverness, John Baillie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Wigtown, David Baird; Elgin, Mr Patrick Duff; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Stirling, Mr Patrick Halden.

The which day the committee elected Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of the city of Edinbr., to be their preses.

The same day the lord provost of Edinbr. reported that he and George Drummond, Esqr., late lord provost of Edr. and preses of the last convention, had in obedience to the appointment of the last convention repair'd to Holland and congratulated his serene highness the Prince of Orange upon his being promoted to the dignity of hereditary Stadtholder of the United Provinces; that they had met with a most gracious reception, and agreeable to their instructions had enter'd into a renewal of the staple contract with the most honble. the magistrats of Campvere for the space of twenty-one years, to run from the expireing of the present contract which determines the day of 1760, and that his serene highness as Marquiss of Campvere had interposed his authority, not only confirming the present contract for

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the years yet to run, but also confirming the said prolongation for twenty-one years longer, commenceing from the said day of 1760, and produced before the committee the said contract and confirmation by his serene highness; and the committee signifyed their great satisfaction with the success of the commissioners appointed by the late convention and approve of their dilligence and dispatch.

The same day the lord provost as conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands represented that at the desire of the magistrats of Campvere he could not avoid earnestly moving the annual committee to appoint their agent to prosecut the following persons for breach of the staple contract, that they may be punisht according to law for the sd. breach, vizt.:—

1mo. James Melvill, shipmaster in Aberdeen, who saill'd from Aberdeen and Montrose loaded with manufactures and salmond, both staple goods, and unloaded the same at Rotterdam in November 1748 contrair to the articles contain'd in the said staple contract.

2do. George Duncan, junior, shipmr. in Aberdeen, who had loaded there with staple goods and unloaded the same at Rotterdam sometime in the year 1748.

3o. Thomas Grindley, shipmr. at Borrowstouness, who loaded there with staple goods and unloaded at Rotterdam in November 1748.

And the conservator furder represented that the custom house books of Aberdeen, Montrose, and Borrowstouness, and the shipmasters and saillors could prove both the loading & unloading as above set forth. Which being considered by the committee, they appointed their clerks to furnish the abovenamed persons with authentick coppys of the said complaint and ordain'd them to put in answers thereto on or before the last Tuesday of February next; and in the meantime authorize and appoint their agent to procure excerpts from the custom house books of Aberdeen, Montrose, and Borrowstouness for vouching the truth of the said complaint, as also to get notise of the names and designations of

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such ship masters & saillors as may be deem'd propper for adduceing in order to prove the said complaint incase a proof should be found necessary, and appoint the clerks to furnish the agent with an extract of this minut.

The same day the committee having heard a report of the burghs of Dumfreise and Annan in favours of the burgh of Kirkudbright, proceeding upon a remit to them with the burghs of Wigtoun and Whithorn, or any two of them, from the last general convention, in order to enquire into the facts represented by the burgh of Kirkudbright in their petition to the last convention praying that they would interpose their authority to the sale of a servitude of common grazeing upon a peice of ground called the Miln Fflatt, and also to the sale or setting in few some houses and yeards called Milnburn, and applying the price of both toward payment of the debts of the town of Kirkudbright; which report bears that it would be much for the interest of the burgh of Kirkudbright that the forsaid servitude of common grazing should be sold by publick roup, or to the proprietors of the ground, as the burgh and they can agree, and that the forsaid houses and yeard at Milnburn should be fewed out by publick roup, and the respective prices of both applyed toward payment of the debts of the burgh. Which being considered by the committee, together with the remit to them from the last convention to doe therein as they should see cause, they were of oppinion that the affair is not yet rype for giveing judgment, and therefor they remit back the same to the said burghs of Dumfreise, Annan, and Wigtoun, & Whithorn, or any two of them, to enquire into the state of the funds and debts of the town of Kirkudbright, as also by what right they are in possession of the said common grazing, houses and yeards abovementioned, and whether or not the same was contain'd in the original grant erecting Kirkudbright into a royal burrow, as also what are the sentiments of the inhabitants with respect to the intended sale and few and application of the price of both for payt. of the debts of the burgh, and they to return a speciall report upon all these heads with their first conveniency.

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The same day the committee approve of the draught of a letter to the members of parliament for the burrows anent the clause now to be apply'd for by Provost Drummond for making effectual the ten pound of the tax roll chargable upon the burghs of barrony & regality, and appoint their preses to sign and dispatch the same, and of which letter the tenor follows :—

Sr.,—The royal burrows in Scotland in consideration of their being subjected to a sixth part of the land tax of this kingdom have by law the exclusive priviledge of foreign trade, but a good time ago the burghs of barrony & regality were by act of parliamt. admitted to a free communication of trade upon their agreeing to releive the royal burrows of a tenth part of the tax to which they are subjected; however, it has been found extreme difficult to recover their proportion & to prevent smugglers, who live in none of these burrows, from reaping the benefit of that trade without bearing any part of the burden.

The annual committee have from time to time advised council learn'd in the law as to the most propper methods for rendering the intention of the legislator effectual, and at their last meeting agreed to apply to parliament to have a clause ingrost in the land tax bill that has been advised and adjusted by his Majesty's late and present advocat, and appointed George Drummond, late lord provost of Edinburgh, their preses, to repair to London for solliciting and procureing the said or some such clause ingrost in the land tax bill, and as the same cannot miss to prove beneficial to all the tradeing burrows and indeed every fair trader in Scotland, the annual committee have laid their commands upon me in name of the royal burrows to apprize yow of this their intention, hopeing that yow will use your intrest and influence for obtaining the accomplishment of their scheme, which aims at nothing but equality and doing justice to all the fair traders in the kingdom. I have the honour to be, sr., your most obedient & most humble servant, Arch. M'Aulay, pres.

Edinbr., 13th January 1749.

EDINBURGH, 18 January 1749. Sederunt.

18 January 1749.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., chosen preses; Edinbr., Thomas Allan and George Cunningham; Air, Andrew Huntar; Stirling, Mr Patrick Halden; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Kinghorn, Robt. Hamilton; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that he had a letter from Provost Drummond on the subject of the clauses proposed to be ingrossed in the land tax bill for releif of the royal burrows from the burghs of barrony and regality, and communicated to them what Mr Drummond had wrote with regard to the sentiments of his grace the Duke of Argyle, vizt., that as it was only proposed to name the members of parliament for the three Lothians and the countys of Stirling and Fife as overseers, with power to them to give releif to any of the burghs of barrony, &ca., who might judge themselves assessed in too much by the burrows, it was possible the members for the other twenty-five countys might take exception to the lodging that power with five members only; 2do., that the treasury behoved to be apprized of the burrows' intention and agree to it before it could be brought into the house; and lastly, that his grace even then doubted if they would agree to bring it in at once to the land tax bill, but would possibly judge it more propper to apply for a seperat bill, and that in all events the treasury should be furnisht with a memorial upon the subject; which, Mr Drummond's letter bore, he had concerted with Mr William Hamilton, agent for the burrows, who had undertaken to prepare a draught of the memorial, which was forthwith to be laid before the Duke of Argyle for his grace's approbation, who was soe good as to offer to present it to the lords of the treasury. Which being considered by the committee, they authorize their preses to write a letter to Mr Drummond signifying their earnest desire that he would take every propper measure for obtaining what the burrows had in view, but without involveing them

in any more expence than what could be the result of obtaining the clauses for their releif ingrost in the land tax bill; that it was their oppinion that Mr Drummond should advise with Provost Andrew Cochran of Glasgow, who was occasionally at London; and that they approved of his engaging Mr Hamilton to prepare a memorial for the treasury, and desired him in their name to thank his grace the Duke of Argyle for being soe good as offer to present their memorial and give his countenance to the intention of the burrows in this affair; and furder authorized Mr Drummond to suggest to his grace that it would be equally acceptable to them to have a committee of the lords of session and barrons of exchequer named as overseers in place of the above members of parliament, who were only thought of as being nearest to Edinbr., without the least intention of neglecting or overlooking the other county members in Scotland.

EDINBURGH, 18 January 1749.

28 February 1749.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., chosen preses; Edinburgh, Robert Montgomry & George Cunningham; Stirling, Mr Patrick Halden; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgine, Patrick Duff; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Cullen, Mr James Philp.

Sederunt.

The which day the burrow officer gave in a declaration that he had delivered into the post office letters sign'd by Mr Joseph Williamson, as clerk to the burrows, directed to George Duncan & James Melvill, shipmasters in Aberdeen, and Thomas Grindley, shipmaster in Borrowstouness, acquainting them of the complaint made against them for breach of the staple contract, and requireing them to give in answers thereto on or before the twenty-eighth instant; but no answers having been given in by them, the committee delay'd the furder consideration of that affair till the ninth of March next.

EDINBURGH.
9 March 1749.
Sederunt.

9 March 1749.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Robert Montgomery & George Cunningham; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

The which day the annual committee having resumed the consideration of the complaint made against George Duncan & James Melvill, shipmasters in Aberdeen, & Thomas Grindley, shipmr. in Bo'ness, for breach of the staple contract, and no answers being made by them to the said complaint, they authorize and appoint their agent to prosecute them before the Court of Session for breach of the said contract for the penaltys therein contain'd, and for that end appoint the agent to write to the customhouses of Aberdeen, Montrose, & Bo'ness, for abstracts of the cargos exported by them in November 1748, or any other moneth of that year, and also to collect any other mean of proof may be necessary in that affair.

30 June 1749.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr.; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

The which day upon reading over the minuts of the last sederunt, Mr Joseph Williamson, clerk to the burrows, acquainted the committee that he had received a letter some time ago from Thomas Grindley, shipmr. in Bo'ness, representing that it was owing to stress of weather that he had put in at Rotterdam, and not out of any inclination to violat the staple contract, but that his letter had accidentally fallen by. Which being considered by the committee, they were of oppinion that this is no sufficient excuse for livering staple goods at Rotterdam.

General Convention *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 4 July 1749.

4 July 1749.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Robert Montgomry & Adam Drummond; Pearth, James Crie; Dundee. George Yeaman; Aberdeen, Alexander Robertson; Stirling, Jaffrey: Linlithgow, Allan Wauch; St Andrews, Andrew Watson; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Air, Andrew Slowand; Hadington, William Kay; Dysert, Robert Thomson; Kirkaldie, James Barclay; Montrose, George Ross; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, Robert Gordon; Bruntisland, John Haxtoun; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, James Boyle; Jedburgh, William Turnbull; Kirkudbright, John Dallyle; Pittenweem, George Fortune; Dumfermling, John Wilson; Anstruther Wester, David Aitkenhead; Selkirk, Willm. Currier; Ranfrew, Willm. Somervell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Willm. Wyld; Aberbrothock, John Man; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Robert Balfour; Tain, John Davidson; Culross, James Johnstoun; Banf, Alexander Innes; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Forfar, William Brown; Ruthglen, David Scott; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, William Romanis; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, James Orr; New Gallaway, William Irving; Dingwall, Collin M'Kenzie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintoir, Robert Bruce; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Wick, Mr George Sinclair; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (ten burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected Archibald M'Aulay, Esquire, lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he being formerly qualify'd to his Majesty King George the Second as the law directs.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1749.

Committee on the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Brechin, Irving, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Pittenweem, Dumferling, and Ranfrew as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to this convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Robert Montgomry and Adam Drummond for Edinbr.; George Yeaman for Dundee; John Brown, assessor for Glasgow; Collin Sharp, assessor for Innerkeithing; Andrew Watson for St Andrews; and Willm. Turnbull for Jedburgh.

2d. art. read.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, concerning the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Report of the trustees presented.

4. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for manufactorys and fisherys, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy general receiver, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders from the 25th Decer. 1747 to the 25th of Decer. 1748, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

5. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported that they having heard and considered the commissions from the burghs of Anstruther Easter, Wigtoun, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Dumbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Peebles, Culross, Banf, Forfar, Whithorn, Rutherglen, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Dingwall, Queensferry, Kintore,

Inverury, Inverbervie, and Stranraer, they were of oppinion that the whole of the said commissions, both as to commissioners and assessors, should be sustain'd, excepting the commissions from the burgh of Wigtoun to Mr Boswall, their commissioner, which they were of oppinion ought to be rejected, in regaurd that it is nottoriously known he is neither merchant nor inhabitant of the said burgh, which is the only qualification given him by the said commission; as also excepting the commission to the commissioner for Inverury, and the commission to the assessor for Dingwall, which they were of oppinion ought likewise to be rejected, unless they doe declair to the convention that they have the several qualifications mentioned in their respective commissions. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and sustain the commissions accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1749.

Wigtoun's rejected.

6. The same day it being reported that the commissioner for Inverury and the assessor for Dingwall were possest of three thousand merks of burgage lands in the burrows which they represent, the convention sustain their commissions.

Commissions approven.

7. The same day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Linlithgow to Allan Wauch, Esqr., their present provost, and a commission from the burgh of Wick to George Sinclair of Ulbster, Esquire, and William Budge, writer to the signet, as his assessor, as also a commission from the burgh of Kinghorn to Robert Hamilton, junr., present provost, they approve of the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

8. The same day there was read a letter from Hugh Forbes, agent to the burrows, representing his bad state of health made it necessary for him to reside at Moffet for the benefit of the mineral waters, and therefor praying to be excused for his absence from this convention. Which being considered, they sustain his excuse.

The agent's excuse sustain'd.

9. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named, to whom they add the

Missive read & committed.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1749.

burghs of Linlithgow, Kinghorn, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Banf, Cullen, Annan, Queensferry, and Stranraer.

Proceedings of the annl. committee approven.

10. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, and observing that the committee had been at great pains in manadging the affairs of the burrows since the last convention, they therefor appoint their preses to return the committee the thanks of the convention, and unanimously approve of their proceedings; and with regaurd to the case of George Duncan & James Melvil, shipmasters in Aberdeen, and James Grindlay, shipmr. in Bo'ness, against whom complaints had been made for breach of the staple contract, upon which the committee of the last convention having authorized their agent to prosecute them before the Court of Session for breach of the said contract, the convention remit their case to the next annual committee to hear them upon what may yet be offered in their defence, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Reference to ye annl. committee.

The staple contracts to be printed.

11. The same day the convention authorize and appoint their clerks to cause print the staple contract betwixt the royal burrows of Scotland and the honble. magistrats of Campvere, dated in anno 1697, with the amplifications, renovations, and ratifications that have since past, and appoint two coppies thereof to be transmitted to each of the royal burrows for their perusall.

Report of the commissioners to the Hague & Campvere approven & the staple contract renewed.

12. The same day the convention having heard read the last renewal of the staple contract, dated in Decer. 1748, sign'd and seall'd by the commissioners of the city of Campvere and George Drummond, Esquire, preses of the last convention, and Archibald M'Aulay, lord conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, commissioners for that end appointed by the last convention, together with the ratification of the contract, dated anno 1736, commenceing from the 25th December 1739, and a furder prolongation from the expiration thereof for the space of twenty-one years from the 25th of December 1760 by his royall highness, William Charles Henry Friso, Prince of Orange & Nassau, and hereditary Stadtholder of the United Provinces,

they approve of the conduct of their commissioners, and agree to return them the thanks of this convention for the faithfull execution of the trust reposed in them, which was done accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1749.

13. The same day the preses reported that, in obedience to the appointment of the last convention, he and the late preses had repaired to the Hague, and in name of the royal burrows congratulated his serene highness the Prince of Orange upon his being promoted to the dignity of Stadtholder of the United Provinces, and that they had met with a most gracious reception; that in the execution of the appointment of the last convention for renewall of the staple contract, he had been furnisht with one hundred pounds of the sum ordered to be issued by their agent, the other two hundred pounds being impressed in the hands of their late preses, who had been charged with a seperat commission for negotiating at London their scheme for ingrossing a clause in the land tax bill for ascertaining and making effectuall the quotas payable by the burghs of barrony and regality accepting of the communication of trade and other unfree traders for releif of the royal burrows, and that dureing his attendance in Holland he had depursed out of his own pockat at least one hundred pounds sterling more while at the Court of the Hague and otherwise negotiating the commission from the last convention; and Mr Drummond, the preses of the late convention, reported that as the two hundred pounds put in his hands was fully exhausted when negotiating the staple contract in Holland, he was at a verry considerable charge for several moneths together at London in pursuance of the instructions from the last convention for making effectual the proportion of the land tax payable by the burghs of barony and regality agreeable to the clause concerted by the late & present lord advocats, which the convention intended should have been ingrossed in the land tax bill; but the attention of the parliat. being almost intirely taken up with two bills of a verry publick nature, vizt., the mutany and navy bills, he was at last advised that it was not practicable to make effectual the intention of the burrows last session of parliament, and that it hardly could be obtain'd at any

Report of the commissioners & their expences referr'd to a committee, & also an accott. due to Mr Wm. Hamilton.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1749.

Report of the commissioners & their expences referr'd to a committee, & also an accott. due to Mr. Wm. Hamilton.

time without a seperat bill, which he was not authorized to sue for; he also represented that Charles Stewart, deput conservator, had been with the approbation of the annual committee appointed secretary to the deputys from the burrows for negotiating the renewall of the staple contract, and that he had attended them at the Hague and had been of singular use in forwarding that affair, and both the commissioners left it to the convention to consider how far Mr Stewart should be gratifyed or they should be reimbursed of the sums they were out of pockat in negotiating the commissions of the last convention. Which being considered by the convention, together with the appointment of the last convention upon their agent to issue out a sum not exceeding three hundred pounds sterl. for defraying the charge of renewing the staple contract and procureing the intended releif from the burghs of barrony and regality, they appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Perth, Aberdeen, Dumfreise, Cullen, Dumbar, Elgin, Inverness, Stranraer, and Air as a committee both to consider what furder may be done in order to procure releif to the royall burrows with regaurd to the quota payle. by the burghs of barrony and regality, and converse with the lord advocat upon that subject, as also to consider what has been reported by the above two gentlemen commissioners from the last convention, and to meet to morrow at four of the clock afternoon and make out their report upon the whole, to be laid before this convention; to which committee they also referr an accompt due to Mr Willm. Hamilton, their agent at London, commenceing in November 1747.

The commissioner for Forress excused.

14. The same day there was laid before the convention a commission for the burgh of Forress in favours of James Warren, present baillie, and it being represented that he was oblidged to goe abroad about necessary bussiness, the convention sustain'd this as a sufficient excuse for not attending this present meeting.

5 July 1749.

Commissions approven.

15. The which day the convention having heard the commissions from the burgh of North Berwick to William Grant, Esqr., his Majestie's

advocat, and from the burgh of Stirling to John Jeffrey, their present provost, & from the burgh of Craill to Robert Balfour, one of their present magistrats, and from the burgh of Tayne to John Davidson of Whitehouse, they approve of the said commissions, and add the lord advocat to the committee formerly named with regaurd to the report made by the late commissioners at the Hague, & the quota payable by the burghs of barrony and regality, &ca.; and such of the members of convention and their assessors who had not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—George Sinclair, commissioner for Week, James Johnstoun for Culross, William Irving for Newgallaway, & Wm. Brown for Forfar.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1749. Commissions approven

and members qualifyed.

16. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the present annual missive reported that they having considered the several heads of the missive were of oppinion that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eight, tenth, twelveth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and twentyeth articles of the missive should be continued, particularly the tax roll as it now stands, for one year untill July iajvij & and fifty; and were of oppinion that the ninth article should be continued with this addition, that the magistrats are also to cause inspect the sufficiency and thickness of the casks imployed in the herring fisherys; and were of oppinion that the eleventh article should be continued, but that to attain the ends proposed by it the convention should cause print the clauses of the acts of parliament pointing out the penaltys against such as shall be guilty of selling damnifyed, mixt, or bad lintseed, and that coppys thereof should be transmitted by the annual committee to all the burrows with their first conveniency; and were also of oppinion that the seventeenth article of the missive should be continued with this variation, that in place of these words, "especially French brandy," there should be insert the following words, "especially forreign spirits of all kinds," and that it should be recommended to the magistrats to give all due encouragment

Heads and articles of the missive continued.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1749.

Heads and articles of the missive continued.

to the distilling of spirits of the grouth of our native country, and they to report their diligence to the next convention; that the eighteenth article should be also continued, and recommended to the town of Jedburgh to cause print the state and condition of their town, that the same being transmitted to the several burrows may be taken under the consideration of the next annual convention, and that the nineteenth article with regaurd to the burgh and peer of Pittenweem should be left out, as the report on this head is ready to be laid before the convention; and in order for the better observation of the regulations of trade & manufactures, that the missive should be annually transmitted to the burrows as soon as possible after the riseing of the convention, and thereafter a particular note of the missive dues transmitted to each burrow at the usual time before the meeting of the next convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and appoint the several articles of the missive abovementioned to continue in full force for one year; and that the ninth article be also continued with the above proposed amendment, and appoint abstracts of the act of parliament anent the sale of damnifyed, mixt, or bad lintseed to be printed and transmitted by the annual committee to the royal burrows and to the haill burghs who have accepted of the communication of trade; and the seventeenth article to be continued with the above proposed amendment; that the eighteenth article be also continued, that the next convention may take under their consideration the state and condition of the town of Jedburgh, after being furnisht with coppys thereof as abovementioned; but that the nineteenth article should be superceded as the intention of it is already obtain'd, the report anent the peer of Pittenweem being already to be laid before the convention; and appoint the missive to be printed and transmitted to the several burrows on or before the end of August next, to promote the better observation of the regulations therein contain'd with regard to trade & manufactures.

17. The same day the preses having made a motion that upon the first opportunity of the meeting of the burrows a congratulatory address should be presented to his Majesty upon the restoration of the peace

in Europe and Great Britain. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Glasgow, North Berwick, Queensferry, Inverbervy, Stranraer, and Cullen to meet at the riseing of the convention in order to prepare a congratulatory address to be presented to his Majesty in name of the royal burrows.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1749.

Committee to draw up a congratulatory address to his Majes. on the peace.

18. The same day the following committee was appointed to audite and examine the agent's accompts and report, vizt.:—the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Stirling, Inverness, and Queensferry.

Committee on the agent's accotts.

19. The same day there was presented by the member for Glasgow, and read in the convention, a memorial containing an abstract of the laws for restraining the abuses and disorders in alehouses and places for retaill of spirituous liquors, with the several regulations thereanent establisht in England, containing a proposall that these laws should be extended to Scotland, which might greatly tend to the benefit of manufactures by compelling numbers to employ themselves that way who at present waste their time in idleness by tipling and drinking, having little other support but what arises from a verry low trade in the way of retailling spirituous and malt liquors, and drawing in manufacturers & tradesmen to spend their time and money in idleness. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their agent to cause print the memorial and abstract of the laws and transmit the same to the burrows, and recommend to them to forward what occurrs to them upon that subject to the annual committee, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Memorial & abstract of the laws agt. ale houses, &ca., to be printed & sent to the burrows.

20. The same day there was read in the convention a memorial anent the British fisherys, so lately under the consideration of the parliament, and proposeing for promoting so excellent a scheme as the herring and cod fishing, that the royal burrows should appoint an agent at London to assist at suggesting what may occur to them for the general good, soe as to make it answer the intention of the legislator and the intrest of our country, and it being suggested that a gentleman

Committee to consider a memorial concerning the British fisherys.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1749. Committee to consider a memorial concerning the British fisherys.

skilfull in these matters was willing to employ his time for advanceing soe good an end, without puting the burrows to any expence, provyded they would cloath him with a publick character, and which might facilitat his services to his country in that way. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee formerly named for bringing in a report anent the making effectual the quota of cess payable by the burghs of barrony and regality, and the other matters represented by the late commissioners at the Hague.

Agent appointed to concurr with the burgh of Kirkwall agt. the inhabitants of Stromness at the charge of the burrows.

21. The same day the convention having heard read a petition and representation from the magistrats of the town of Kirkwall, seting forth that the town or village of Stromness, as carrying on a trade in their neighbourhead, had been in use to pay a certain proportion of the tax roll and missive dues in releif of the town of Kirkwall, and did actually pay down to the year 1742 when they advanced the sum of £204, 16s. Scots as their proportion of the tax roll, but having made no payments thereafter, a proces was commenced against them before the Court of Session, to evite the consequences of which, application was made by the town of Stromness praying for communication of trade and offering to releive Kirkwall in time comeing of the just and equal third of what the town of Kirkwall is presently stented in, both for cess and missive dues, which gave rise to the determination by the last convention that Stromness should have the benefit of the communication of trade upon the conditions that they should pay in to the agent of the royal burrows towards releif of the town of Kirkwall the sum of two hundred and four pound sixteen shilling Scots for each year from July 1742 to July 1748 inclusive, and in time comeing the third part of what the town of Kirkwall is presently stented in, both for cess and missive dues, and that the inhabitants of Stromness should be bound, in case of increase of their trade and decrease of the trade of Kirkwall, to subject themselves in payment of such furder proportion of cess and missive dues as any general convention of the royal burrows should thereafter determine; which failzieing, that the agent on the publick expence should carry on either the present or such other proces as should be

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1749.

Agent appointed to concurr with the burgh of Kirkwall agt. the inhabitants of Stromness at the charge of the burrows.

deem'd adviseable to be carry'd on against the inhabitants of Stromness dealing in illicit trade; and it being verifyed to the convention that the town of Kirkwall had paid up their proportion, and it being instructed by an instrument produced that the burgh of Stromness had not comply'd with the appointment of the last convention, altho made in consequence of their own request, wherefor it was prayed in behalf of the town of Kirkwall that the agent upon the publick expence should be appointed to prosecute the inhabitants of Stromness in the terms of the act of the last convention for dealing in an illicit trade without affoording any releif to the town of Kirkwall. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their agent on the publick charge to prosecut the inhabitants of Stromness accordingly.

Agent to concurr in defending the magistrats of Ranfrew agt. John Anderson.

22. The same day there was read a petition from the magistrats of Ranfrew seting forth that one John Anderson, residenter in Blawerthill, and some other persons, burgesses of Ranfrew, had commenced a mallicious proces against the magistrats on pretence of their having let, at an under value, some parts of the common good by privat bargain and not by publick roup; and for seling by publick roup for rent fourty-two acres of a moor adjacent to the town, consisting of about two hundred acres, which formerly used to be in common to the burgeses, and therefor praying that the convention would appoint their agent to grant his concurrence to the town and magistrats of Ranfrew in defence against this mallicious proces; and it being represented by the member for Glasgow that the magistrats of Ranfrew were men of known integrity, and had manadged the publick affairs of the burrow with great aconomy and discretion. All which being considered by the convention, they authorize and appoint their agent to concurr with the magistrats in defending against this proces at the instance of some privat burgesses.

Arrears of cess & missive dues presented.

23. The same day it was reported that the general receiver of the land tax had lodged a list of arrears of cess due by the several burrows, craving the aid of the convention for making the said arrears effectual, and the agent gave in the arrears of missive dues.

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Eod. die post meridiem.

Agent to pay to Provt. Drummond & Provt. M'Aulay 100 lit. sterl. bet. them, & 30 guineas to Mr Charles Stewart, conservator deput.

24. The same day the committee appointed to consider what was represented by the commissioners of the last convention anent their negotiation at the Hague, reported it is their oppinion that the convention should order their agent to make payment of thirty guineas to Mr Charles Stewart, deputy conservator, who had acted as their secretary at the Hague, and the sum of one hundred pounds sterling to their said commissioners in consideration of their negotiation in Holland, and that Mr Hamilton's accompt remitted to them should be referr'd to the committee upon the agent's accompts. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and appoint their agent to pay to the conservator upon his recept for the use of his deputy the sum of thirty guineas, and to the sd. commissioners upon their joint recept one hundred pounds sterling, and appoint the agent to state the same in his present accompt.

Committee to consider the memorial anent the British fisherys.

25. The same day the committee appointed to consider the memorial anent the British fisheries reported that they had heard the gentleman hinted at in the reference made to them by the convention, and finding that he did not propose to repair to London and negotiat that affair purely upon his own charges, they did not choise to enter furder into that affair themselves; but were of oppinion that it merits the consideration of the convention what part they will choise to act with regaurd to the schem for promoteing herring & cod ffishings. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Pearth, Dundee, Montrose, Dumbar, Ranfrew, Anstruther Easter, Kilrenny, Irving, Air, Banf, and Queensferry to consider that matter, and report to-morrow at twelve a cloak what they apprehend most propper to be done by this convention in the present crisis, it being most probable that it will come under the consideration of the legislator the next session of parliament.

Agent to pay to Pittenweem £10 sterl.

26. The same day, having heard the report of Anstruther Easter & Anstruther Wester and Crail anent the peer of Pittenweem, the necessity of its being timeously repaired, and the low state of the

revenue of the burrow, they agree to allow them ten pound sterl. towards the reparation of their pier, and appoint their agent to issue out that sum for the said purpose and to charge his present accompt therewith, and recommend it to the neighbouring burrows to appoint a voluntary collection to be apply'd for the repairation of the said peir.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1749. Agent to pay to Pittenweem £10 sterl.

6 July 1749.

27. The same day the committee appointed to consider the agent's accompts and what should be done with regaurd to the unfree trade in order to recover their quota of the land tax, reported as their oppinion that the convention should remit it to the annual committee to revise the clauses lately concerted, with an intention to their being ingrossed in the land tax bill for releiving the royal burrows of the quota of the tax payable by the burghs of barrony & regality who have accepted of the communication of trade, and effectually giveing check to other illicite traders till such time as they subject themselves to a just proportion of the land tax; and that the committee should be authorized to take the advice of lawiers for reviseing and improveing the above-mentioned clauses; and that it should be recommended to Mr Joseph Williamson, clerk to the burrows, so soon as these clauses are adjusted, to draw up a state of the case, and the preses and such members of the committee as shall be in town to wait of his grace the Duke of Argyle when he comes to Edinbr., and earnestly entreat his grace's countenance for procureing a parliamentary releif to the royal burrows; and incase his grace should be of oppinion the committee have any reason to hope that they may obtain such clauses ingrost in the land tax bill, that coppys of the same and state of the case should be transmitted to the several burrows in order to their useing their intrest with their representatives in parliament for making the same effectual; and the committee also reported it as their oppinion that Mr Williamson should be appointed by the convention to be join'd with the burrows' agent as a lawier in prosecuting the burgh of Stromness, agreeable to the appointment of this present convention for that prosecution, as also that he should be

Annl. committee to consider the laws ag. unfree traders, &c.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

joined in such other processes as shall be intented against unfree traders upon the laws as they now stand, his Majestie's advocat being first advised and his sign'd oppinion obtain'd how far these laws will affoord an effectual releif against the other burghs of barrony & regality and illicite traders. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and enact & ordain accordingly.

Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent at London, his sallary discontinued.

28. The same day the said committee reported as their oppinion that the convention should discontinue the sallary in use to be pay'd to Mr Wm. Hamilton, their agent at London, as there does not seem any occasion for having an agent in time of peace. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and discontinue the sallary accordingly.

Mr Wm Hamilton's accott. restricted to £10, 6s. sterl.

29. The same day the said committee having considered Mr Willm. Hamilton's accompt, reported as their oppinion that the three articles stated for drawing memorials, of two guineas each, ought to be struck out by the convention and their agent appointed to pay the ballance, being ten pounds six shillings, upon Mr Hamilton's discharge. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report & order accordingly.

Committee to meet wt. the trustees anent their office rent, &ca.

30. The same day the said committee reported as their oppinion that the convention should recommend to their preses and the members for Edinbr. to converse with the trustees for fisherys and manufactures, and take their oppinion how far there can be any abatements made of the annual payments issued by the convention for the rent of their office or otherways, and that in consideration of the low state of the finances of the burrows, and were of oppinion that all the other sallarys and gratuitys on the establishment should be continued and pay'd as formerly. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report, and recommend to their preses and members for Edinbr. to converse with the trustees with regaurd to any abatements of the payments in use to be made to them by the convention, and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—To Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr Willm. Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterl. of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterl. of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterling of

Agent appointed to pay the sallarys and gratuitys in this act.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Agent appointed to pay the sallarys and gratuitys in this act.

sallary; to Willm. Grant, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, five pounds sterl. of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactorys, for his own and clerk's sallary, eighty pounds sterling; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pounds sterling; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, for his clerk's sallary, twenty pounds sterl.; to George Lindsay, clerk deput, twenty pounds sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, for his sallary and writings, thirty pounds sterling of sallary; to John Johnstoun, burrow officer, twenty pound sterl. of sallary & four pound sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, sixty pounds Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pounds Scots; to the gardner of Herriot's hospital for flowers, twelve pounds Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pounds Scots; and to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pounds Scots of supply yearly dureing her life.

Act anent the British ffisherys.

31. The same day the committee appointed to consider the memorial anent the British fisherys mentioned in former acts of this convention, and how far it would be for the intrest of the burrows to appoint ane agent for suggesting what may be deem'd propper for promoteing the fisherys in Scotland, and giveing propper information to such companys interested as may reside at London or elsewhere, report as their oppinion that it is greatly for the intrest of the burrows & necessary that a fit person of knowledge in fisherys should be named for repairing to London and attending the next session of parliament when that matter will be in agitation, in order to his suggesting to members of parliament or others what may be most propper for promoteing such a laudable undertaking, particularly with regaurd to the intrest of Scotland, and that the convention should loose no time in nameing a person and settleing what sum should be given him for the services he might doe betwixt and the meeting of the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749. Act anent the British fisherys.

and appoint the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Aberdeen, & Glasgow, betwixt and the meeting of the convention in the afternoon, to converse with the gentleman who had met with the committee yesterday and report their oppinion who should be named to the effect @mentioned, and what appointment should be settled by the convention.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited.

32. The same day the committee appointed to revise the agent's accompts of unfree trade reported that they having considered the accompt of the intromissions with the cess and missive dues of the burghs of barrony and regality, find he charges himself with two thousand one hundred & fifteen pounds four shilling eight pennies & $\frac{4}{12}$d. Scots as the arrears of the burghs of barrony and regality due at July iajvij & and fourty-seven, and with the year's cess and missive dues chargable upon the said burghs at July iajvij & and fourty-eight, being two thousand six hundred and twenty-seven pound nine shilling $10\frac{2}{12}$d. Scots, amounting the said sums to four thousand seven hundred and fourty-two pounds thirteen shilling nine pennies and three-twelveths of a penny; and that his discharge, inclusive of two thousand four hundred and nine pounds two shilling & $\frac{2}{12}$d. of arrears due by the said burghs at July 1748, amounts to five thousand two hundred and eighty-two pounds fourteen shilling six pennies and two-twelveths, whereby there is a ballance due to the agent on this accompt of five hundred and fourty pounds eight pennies and $\frac{11}{12}$thd. Scots money, which sum he has taken credit for in this year's accompt of missive dues, and the committee fand his discharge sufficiently instructed, the instructions being seall'd by the preses and left in the clerk's hands. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof, and of which accompt the tenor follows:—

Mr Hugh Forbes, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland.
To arrears due by the burghs of barrony at July 1747.

Debr.

Frazersburgh - - - - -	£161	9	4	9/12
Down - - - - - -	18	3	2	6

Prestonpans - - - - -	£484	0	3	6
Old Meldrum - - - - -	40	17	2	7½
Kilwinning - - - - -	27	4	9	9
Portsoy - - - - - -	107	12	11	2
Cockeny - - - - - -	680	4	6	3
Limekilns - - - - -	595	12	3	10
	£2115	4	8	4½

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited.

To the cess chargable on the burghs of barrony at July 1748.

Weemys - - -	£81	14	5	3/12
Greenock - - -	435	17	0	0
Frazersburgh - -	81	14	5	3
Leven - - -	108	19	3	0
Kilmarnock - -	108	19	3	0
Dalkeith - - -	217	18	6	0
Down - - -	18	3	2	6
Dunnikier - -	36	6	5	0
Linktown - -	36	6	5	0
Bo'ness - - -	272	8	1	6
Prestonpans - -	163	8	10	6
Peterhead - -	108	19	3	0
Stonhyve - - -	54	9	7	6
Eli - - -	54	9	7	6
Old Meldrum - -	40	17	2	7½
Eymouth - - -	136	4	0	9
Kilwinning - -	27	4	9	9
Aloa - - -	136	4	0	9
Portsoy - - -	54	9	7	0
Turriff - - -	18	3	2	6
St Ninians - -	25	19	5	9
Saltcoats - - -	217	18	6	0

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited.

Arrears due by the burghs of barrony at July 1747—									
Brot. over					£2115	4	8	4½
Cess from July 1747 to Do. 1748—*continued.*								
Cockeny - - -	£81	14	5	3				
Limekilns - -	54	9	7	6				
Musselburgh - -	54	9	7	6				
					2627	9	0	10½
Sum charge -					£4742	13	9	3
Ballance due to the agent on this accompt -					540	0	8	11½
Sum - -					£5282	14	6	2½

Crer.

By Cash paid to the general receiver in full of the cess of the burghs of barrony and regality from 25th March 1748 to Do 1749, £208, 8s. 4d. sterl., inde. - - - - - - -									£2501	0	0	0
By a year's missive dues of the burghs of barrony and regality from 1st July 1748 to Do. 1749, £26, 1s. 0 6/12d. sterling, being in Scots money - - - - - - - - -									312	12	6	0
By an allowance for quartering pr. 39th act in July 1730 - -									60	0	0	0
By the following arrears due by the burghs of barrony, vizt. :—												
Leven at July 1748 - - - -					£108	19	3	0				
Down at July 1747 -	£18	3	2	6								
Do. at July 1748 -	18	3	2	6								
					36	6	5	0				
Prestonpans at July 1747	£484	0	3	6								
Do. at July 1748	163	8	10	6								
					647	9	2	0				
Old Meldrum at July 1748 - - -					40	17	2	7½				
Eymouth at July 1748 - - - -					136	4	0	9				
Kilwinning at July 1748 - - -					27	4	9	9				
Cockeny at July 1747 -	£680	4	6	3								
Do. at July 1748 -	81	14	5	6								
					761	18	11	9				
Limekilns at July 1747 -	£595	12	5	10								
Do. at July 1748 -	54	9	7	6								
					650	2	1	4				
									2409	2	0	2½
Sum of the discharge -									£5282	14	6	2½

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Agent's accott. of missive dues audited.

33. The same day the committee appointed to audite the agent's accompts reported that they having considered his accompt of missive dues fand he charges himself with three thousand four hundred and thirty pounds five shillings four pennies 9½ twelveths Scots as the ballance in his hand at auditing his last accompt of missive dues in July 1748, and with twelve thousand pounds Scots of missive dues from July 1748 to July 1749, amounting to fifteen thousand four hundred and thirty pounds five shilling four pennies nine twelveths Scots money; and that his discharge, inclusive of five hundred and fourty pounds eight pennies 11½d. twelveths as the ballance due to him on his accompt of unfree trade audited this day and taken credit for in this accompt, amounts after deduction of the second article of annual rent, which the committee disallow, to twelve thousand five hundred and ninty-seven pounds nine shilling four pennies 11½ twelveths, whereby there is a ballance due by him upon this accompt of two thousand eight hundred and thirty-two pounds fifteen shilling eleven pennies 9½ twelveths Scots with which he ought to charge himself in his next accompt, and fand his discharge sufficiently instructed, the accompts being seall'd by the preses and left in the clerk's hands. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report, and appoint the agent to charge himself accordingly, and of which accompt the tenor follows:—

Mr Hugh Forbes, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland, his accompt of missive dues.

	Debr.			
To the ballance of his last accompt of missive dues, audited the 6th of July 1748 - -	£3,430	5	4	9
To one year's missive dues of the royal burrows, from the 1st of July 1748 to do. 1749 -	12,000	0	0	0
	£15,430	5	4	9

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Agent's accott. of missive dues audited.

The Agent	Crer.			
By an allowance to Provost Drummond and the conservator for the expence in going to Holland and London, as pr. the 14th act of last convention, £300 sterl. inde. - -	£3600	0	0	0
Int. pd. to Wm. Wilson on their draught, dated the 22nd Octr. 1748 till July 1749 - -	126	0	0	0
By an allowance to the burgh of Whithorn for repairing ye harbour - - -	300	0	0	0
By Wm. Tod, mercht., as the first moyetie of the expence of a prosecution - - -	1200	0	0	0
By the prinle. clerks, their sallary - -	600	0	0	0
By the agent's sallary - - - -	600	0	0	0
By his servant's sallary - - - -	120	0	0	0
By the lord advocat, as assessor, of sallary -	333	6	8	0
By his servant's sallary - - - -	60	0	0	0
By the conservator's sallary - - -	600	0	0	0
By David Flint, secretary to the trustees, for his own and clerk's sallary - - -	960	0	0	0
By James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office till Whit. 1749 - - - -	240	0	0	0
By Mr Willm. Hamilton, agent at London, his sallary - - - - -	300	0	0	0
By Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, for his clerks	240	0	0	0
By George Lindsay, deput clerk, of sallary -	240	0	0	0
By Archibald Blair, recorder, his sallary - -	360	0	0	0
By John Johnstoun, of sallary and gratuity -	288	0	0	0
By the clerk of the burrow aeque, his allowance -	60	0	0	0
By the keeper of the advocats' bar, of allowance -	29	0	0	0
By the keeper of the burrow room, his allowance -	15	0	0	0
By the gardner of Herriot's hospital, for flowers -	12	0	0	0
By Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, of supply - - -	60	0	0	0
By printings and others for the burrows pr. accott.	106	2	0	0

By the agent's yearly allowance for incidents -	£120	0	0	0	EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited.
By this year's genl. missive - - -	36	0	0	0	
By an allowance to Provost Drummond and Provost M'Aulay in full pr. act - - -	1200	0	0	0	
By an allowance to Charles Stewart, the secretary, for his charges, &ca., pr. act Do. - -	378	0	0	0	
Sum -	£12,183	8	8	0	
Deduce the 2d. article of this accott. disallow'd & past from - - - - -	126	0	0	0	
Remains -	£12,057	8	8	0	
6 July 1749. By ballance due to the agent on his accott. of unfree trade, audited this day -	540	0	8	11½	
	£12,597	9	4	11½	
Ballance due by the agent on both accompts	2832	15	11	9½	
	£15,430	5	4	9	

34. The same day the committee appointed to bring in an address to his Majesty upon the restoration of the publick peace presented the following draught thereof. Which being read, the convention approve of the said draught, appoint the preses to sign it in their name, and transmit the same to his grace the Duke of Newcastle in order to be presented by him to his Majesty, and which address the tenor follows:— Address to his Majesty approven.

To the king's most excellent Majesty, the humble address of the general convention of the royal burrows of Scotland.

Most gracious soveraign, wee, your Majesty's most dutifull and loyal subject, the representatives of the royal burrows of Scotland in a general convention assembled, beg leave to embrace this first opportunity of our meeting together humbly to congratulat your most sacred Majesty on the establishment of the peace of Europe, happily brought Address.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749. Address.

about by the unwearied endeavours of the best of princes whose arms and councills are, under God, the great security of the British tranquillity.

Permit us, great sr., with the utmost satisfaction to observe the early fruits of this inestimable blessing, the attention of the parliament having already, in pursuance of your Majestie's gracious recommendation, been engaged in promoteing many valuable branches of trade, and opening new views for improvement of the British fisheries, which may prove an inexhaustable treasure, a certain source of strength to the navy, and wealth to the nation.

Wee beg leave to join in the national joy upon the increase of your Majestie's family, which wee hope will ever flourish and perpetuat to latest posterity the happiness your Majestie's subjects now possess under your mild and auspicious government.

That your Majesty may long live to taste the blessings of peace, to see the nation flourish, and reign over a free & happy people, is and ever will be the most earnest prayer of, may it please your Majesty, your Majestie's most dutifull, most loyal, and obedient subjects, the commissioners of your royal burrows of Scotland.

Edinbr., 6th July 1749, sign'd in
their name & by their appointmt.
by

Sic subtr.,
Archd. M'Aulay, preses.

Post meridiem.

Agent to pay to the commissioner for Glasgow £31, 12s. $4\frac{5}{12}$ str.

35. The same day the member for Glasgow presented an accompt amounting to one hundred and fifty-eight pounds one shilling and ten pence sterling, intituled the gentlemen interested in the application to parliament for opening and extending the trade to Hudsons Bay, and represented that one-fifth part thereof would fall on the city of Glasgow, or the gentlemen of that city then at London, unless releived by the royal burrows; that as it was a matter of a general concern to Scotland, it was hoped the convention would order their agent to make payment of the fifth part of the aforsaid accompt, notwithstanding of the thirty-first act of the last general convention whereby it is declared

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Agent to pay to the commissioner for Glasgow £31, 12s. $4\frac{5}{12}$d. str.

that for thereafter no sum or sums of money shall be paid to any person or persons deburseing the same for or on accompt of the royal burrows unless such person or persons should have their authority for so doing, in regaurd that at the time the said money was debursed there was no convention sitting nor had he time to acquaint the annual committee thereof, and that the affair required an immediat depursement of money. Which being considered by the convention, and they observing that the money so expended was for the benefit and advantage of the state of burrows, they therefor authorize and appoint their agent to pay the fifth part of the said sum to Andrew Cochran, Esq., provost and present member of the city of Glasgow, amounting to the sum of thirty-one pounds twelve shilling four pence $\frac{5}{12}$ sterl.

Act appointing Mr Ffrancis Grant to goe to London for promoteing the British fishery.

36. The same day the convention having resumed the consideration of the memorial anent the British fisheries, and the members for Edinbr., Perth, Aberdeen, and Glasgow reported that according to appointment of the convention they had mett with the gentleman who was with the committee yesterday and conversed with him on the subject of the said memorial and former minuts of this convention, and that they were of oppinion that Mr Francis Grant, mercht. in Edinbr., is a fit person to be sent to London as agent for the royal burrows to give his advice and assistance in any bill which may be brought into parliament with respect to the herring and cod fisherys or any schem that may be proposed for promoteing the fisherys; that he is to correspond on this subject with the annual committee and follow their directions, and to advise with any of the burrows who can give him light in this matter; that he is to take particular care that nothing pass in prejudice to the inhabitants of the royal burrows that may discourage or debar them from fishing either in a single or collective capacity; that Mr Grant for his expence, trouble, and every other claim in executing the above commission shall have fifty pounds sterling certain and such an other sum as any future convention shall judge he merits, not exceeding at most fifty pounds sterl. money more, in all one hundred pounds sterling, to which sum he restricts his utmost demand he can make on the accompt forsaid, and the

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

last fifty pounds to be given him, or any part of it, as a future convention shall judge propper. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and enact and ordain accordingly.

Agent to pay Mr Wm. Hamilton £16, 12s., being the full of his accompt.

37. The same day upon reading the minuts of the last sederunt disallowing of six pounds six shillings sterl. of Mr Wm. Hamilton the agent's accompt, it was observed by a great many of the members that for many years past his accompts were always justly and honourably paid without any abatement, and particularly such articles thereof as were stated for drawing memorials, &ca.; they therefor did and hereby doe rescind that part of the minut, disallowing the forsaid six pounds six shillings sterling, and appoint the burrow agent to pay him his whole accompt without any abatement, amounting to sixteen pounds twelve shillings sterling.

Viset appointed of the burgh of Sanquhar.

38. The same day there was a petition presented by the burgh of Sanquhar seting forth that they had been long in straitned circumstances and verry poor, and that on accompt of the difficultys under which the burgh laboured about twenty years ago, the convention of the royal burrows were pleased to allow them twelve pounds sterling for the uses and purposes mentioned in the said petition, but which sum was never paid; and that they are still in such straitned circumstances and many debts, of which they have little prospect of being able to discharge, and therefor praying the convention to consider the state and circumstances of the burgh and grant them such allowance and support as may be thought necessary. Which being considered by the convention, they observed that the agent in his accompts had taken credit for the said sum as paid, but they remit to the annual committee to search and see if the town ever granted a recept or discharge of the said money, and to report to the next convention; and they appoint the burghs of Dumfreise, Kirkudbright, Annan, and Lochmabin to viset the said burgh, and to report what state and circumstances the same is in.

39. The same day the member for Stranraer overtured in the convention that this convention doe statut and ordain that any act to

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Act anent the missive dues & prohibiting money to be given upon any first motion till it lye on the table till next meeting of ye convention.

be made for hereafter by this convention or any future convention of the royal burrows which in any manner of way may increase the missive dues or otherways become a burden on the royal burrows, shall not be concluded and voted in that sederunt in which it is first moved for, but the same being delivered to the clerk in writing, shall either be referr'd to a committee or shall lye upon the table till another sederunt, that the members of the convention may consider thereon in the meantime; declairing that any burden or charge brought upon the royal burrows contrair to the express tenor of this act shall not be binding upon them nor shall be allow'd of by any future convention, and this to be laid before the preses the first day of every convention and read by the clerk that the same may be made known to the members. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and enact, ordain, & declair accordingly.

Annual committee appointed with their usual powers.

40. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Tain, Whithorn, Northberwick, Cullen, Dingwall, Queensferry, Inverury, Inverbervie, and Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter, except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows, soe

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1749.

Annual committee appointed with their usual powers.

as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming & concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no caice have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have speciall authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July iajvij & and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be upon the seventh instant at eleven a cloak in this place, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

Convention dissolved.

41. The same day the convention dissolved this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet & be held at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

7 July 1749.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1749.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr.; Edinbr., James Ker; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Air, Andrew Sloand; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Perth, Mr James Crie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Irving, Mr James Boyle; Inverurie, Walter Ferguson; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Dingwall, John Dingwall.

Preses chosen.

The which day the annual committee elected Archibald M'Aulay, Esquire, lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1749.

The same day the annual committee having heard the several remits of the last general convention to them, they recommend to their clerks to cause print the staple contract 1697, and the renovations and amplications thereof, and the memorial and abstract of the laws against ale houses and tippleing houses to be sent to each royal burrow as directed by the last convention.

The staple contracts to be printed.

The same day the committee remit to Mr Joseph Williamson, their clerk, to draw up a memorial or state of the laws relative to the unfree trade & such burghs of barrony & regality as have accepted of the communication of trade, to be laid before his grace the Duke of Argyle when he comes to Scotland.

Mr Williamson to draw up a state of the unfree trade.

The same day the committee agreed to the draught of a letter to Mr William Hamilton, their agent at London, upon his being removed from this agency for the burrows, which they appoint their preses to sign in their name, and of which the tenor follows:—

Letter to Mr Wm. Hamilton at London.

Sr.,—I am ordered by the convention of the royal burrows to acquaint yow that because of the low state of the publick revenue of the burrows they have thought fitt to discontinue the sallarys of several of the officers imploy'd by them, and amongst others your sallary is discontinued, because they think they will have no occasion for an agent at London now in the time of peace.

I assure yow, sr., that it's done allennarly on accompt of the poverty of many of the burrows, and not out of any disregaurd to yow; on the contrair, I am ordered in name of the convention to return yow their hearty thanks for the many good services yow have done to the state of burrows, which I hope yow will accept of, and beleive me to be, wt. all due esteem & respect, sr., your most humble servt.

Edinbr., 7th July 1749. Arch. M'Aulay, pres.

21 July 1749.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Robert Montgomery; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverkeithing, Mr

EDINBURGH. 21 July 1749. Sederunt.

John Cunningham; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Queensferry, George Drummond; Dingwall, John Dingwall; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Wick, Mr George Sinclair.

Act, John Cunningham agt. John Kirkaldie.

The which day John Cunningham, provost of Inverkeithing, represented to the annual committee that John Kirkaldie, late councillor of the burgh of Inverkeithing, had presented a bill to the lords for obtaining a suspension of a judgment of the annual convention, anno 1748, suspending the said John Kirkaldie from the exercise of the office of councillor till such time as he should be reponed by the annual committee or their next convention; and the committee having considered that the said John Kirkaldie was originally suspended for attempting to introduce a forreign jurisdiction into the burrows and signing an application to certain justices of the peace in order to obtain their warrand for excludeing some members of councill from voteing at an election, and having also considered that he declined the jurisdiction of the annual convention by Robert Blackwood of Pitravie, his pror., and never since personally compeared either to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the convention; or to have the sentence against him removed; therefor the annual committee did and hereby doe appoint their agent to concurr with the said John Cunningham in answering the aforsaid bill of suspension, and what furder procedure may be had thereon, without prejudice to the said John Kirkaldie to compear before the annual committee and show cause why he should be reponed.

12 October 1749.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., Robert Montgomery and Adam Drummond, conveener; Queensferry, George Drummond; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Wick, Mr George Sinclair.

The which day there was presented to the annual committee a petition for James Strachan, late merchant in Aberdeen, craveing to be

EDINBURGH. 12 October 1749.

Act appointing James Strachan to be factor at Campvere.

admitted a factor at the staple port of Campvere. Which being considered by the committee, and they being sufficiently informed of, and satisfyed with the fitness and sufficiency of the said James Strachan for discharging that office, and James Nimmo, Esqr., general receiver of his Majestie's excise in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and Mr William Hog, mercht. in Edinburgh, being offered as cautioners for the said James Strachan, his dutifull behaviour in the said office, therefor the committee did & hereby doe approve of the said cautioners, and by virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention have given & granted and by these presents give & grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said James Strachan to be a factor at the staple port of Campvere upon the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt. :—That the said office shall endure dureing the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said James Strachan shall behave himself honestly & dutifully in the said office, and shall make just and thankfull compt, reckoning, and payment of whatsoever goods, gear, and sums of money he shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with, pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor or that he shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows; that he shall obey all and whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general and particular conventions; that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with, and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be whenever he shall happen to be required for that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to intromitt with or sell belonging to merchants, his constituents; that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port, by taking them in copartnery with himself without the consent of the royal burrows; and that he

EDINBURGH. 12 October 1749.

Act appointing James Strachan to be factor at Campvere.

shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows dischargeing the same; and lastly, in case any of his cautioners above named shall either dye or become insufficient, that he shall renew his caution when he shall be required thereto; and he being present gave his oath *de fideli administratione.*

Act appointing John Stewart to be factor at Campvere.

The same day there was presented to the annual committee a petition for John Stuart, merchant in Campvere, craving to be admitted a factor at the staple port of Campvere. Which being considered by the committee, and they being sufficiently informed of and satisfyed with the fitness and sufficiency of the said John Stewart for discharging that office, and Charles Stewart, deputy conservator of the Scots priviledges at Campvere, and John Yair, bookseller in Edinburgh, being offered as cautioners for the said John Stuart, his dutifull behaviour in the said office, therefor the committee did & hereby doe approve of the said cautioners, and by virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention have given & granted and by these presents give & grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said John Stewart to be a factor at the staple port of Campvere upon the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt.:—That the said office shall endure during the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said John Stewart shall behave himself honestly and dutifully in the said office, and shall compear before the conservator or his deput and give his oath *de fideli administratione*, and shall make just and thankfull compt, reckoning, and payment of whatsoever goods, gear, and sums of money he shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with, pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be employed as a staple factor or that he shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows; that he shall obey all and whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general or particular conventions; that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with, and shall discharge a

true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment, how mean soever the same may happen to be, whenever he shall be required for that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to intromit with or sell belonging to merchants, his constituents; that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port, by taking them into copartnery with himself without the consent of the royal burrows; and that he shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows discharging the same; and lastly, incase any of his cautioners abovenamed shall either dye or become insufficient that he shall renew his caution when he shall be required thereto.

EDINBURGH. 12 October 1749.

Act appointing John Stewart to be factor at Campvere.

14 November 1749.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Adam Drummond; Air, Andrew Huntar; Queensferry, George Drummond; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Elgin, Patrick Duff.

Sederunt.

The which day it being represented to the annual committee that Mr Francis Grant had set out for London and was desireous to have his commission to act for the burrows anent the fisherys, without ingrossing the last part of the act touching the allowance of £50 for his expence, trouble, and every other claim for executing the commission, with fifty pounds more incase any future convention should judge it propper or that his services merited, it being thought that the ingrossing such a clause in his commission was not only needless but impropper in a commission to be laid before the parliament in a question of such great importance to the burrows; and it being represented by the clerk that Mr Grant had left behind him an order to Mr Riddoch, writer, to receive the first £50 subjoin'd to the burrows' act containing the limitation as to the money, which could not but ascertain Mr Grant's

Agent to pay Mr Francis Grant 50 lit. sterl., and to extend his commission.

EDINBURGH. 14 November 1749.

knowledge of the terms on which the commission was granted. Which being considered by the committee, they authorize their clerk to extend his commission without ingrossing the clauses about the money.

Agent to pay Mr Grant's 50 lit. to Thos. Riddoch.

The same day the agent for the burrows having represented that altho Mr Francis Grant, merchant in Edinbr., was authorized to take care of the interest of the burrows with relation to the white herring and cod fisheries, yet he did not choise to issue out the first fifty pounds mentioned in the act in his favours without a warrand from the committee, because Mr Grant had not yet enter'd upon executing that commission, and it was uncertain from the words of the act whether any part of the money was to be paid before the services were performed; and the committee having caused read the act were of oppinion that Mr Grant was intitled to the first fifty pounds therein mentioned in order to enable him to execut the commission granted by the convention, and therefor did and hereby doe authorize the agent to impress fifty pounds sterling in the hands of Mr Thomas Riddoch, writer in Edinburgh, he having an order for that purpose subjoin'd by Mr Francis Grant to an extract of the act of convention, which is hereby appointed to lye in the clerk's hands.

Memorial anent the unfree trade sent by Glasgow.

The committee having taken under consideration a memorial from the burgh of Glasgow anent the unfree trade, and some methods therein proposed for proportioning amongst the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders such share of the tax roll as their trade and circumstances could bear, not exceeding upon the whole one tenth of the land tax payable by the royal burrows, with some proposalls for more effectually levying the quotas payable by the burghs of barrony and regality, &ca., the lord provost of Edinbr. reported that he had furnisht his grace the Duke of Argyle with a verry full memorial upon that subject, which had been drawn up by Mr Joseph Williamson, their clerk, in complyance with a recommendation from the last convention, together with a short abstract of what is therein contain'd, but he had not yet an opportunity of knowing his

EDINBURGH. 14 November 1749.

Memorial anent the unfree trade sent by Glasgow.

grace's sentiments, or hearing from the city member what had past on that subject, he having also been furnish'd with a coppy of that memorial; the committee recommend to the lord provost of Edr. to transmit a coppy of this memorial to Mr Ker, city member, but gave it as their oppinion that he should carefully avoid takeing any notise of what is contain'd in the first paragraff touching the extent of the landed propperty in Scotland compared with that of the burrows, and that his lordship should write to him to use his best endeavours for procureing a propper releif to the royal burrows from the burghs of barrony & regality, &ca.; but incase there appear'd much difficulty in obtaining the full remedy proposed in the memorials abovementioned, that he should at least endeavour to obtain a clause ingrost in the land tax bill authorizeing an action in equity against all unfree traders, probable by their own oaths or any other habile mean of proof known in law tryable by the Court of Session or judge ordinary (there being at present no redress without an actual deprehension of the goods belonging to unfree traders), and that the quotas payable by the burghs of barrony and regality should be levyable in the like manner as his Majestie's land tax in the countys and royal burrows are, or by summary poinding & sale of goods.

Memorial anent ale houses, &ca., to be sent to Mr James Ker at London.

The same day the committee having considered the proposal made to the last convention anent redressing the great nusance of the multiplicity of ale houses and tipleing houses, and the advantage accrueing to our neighbouring country by suffering none to exercise that trade but such as are propperly licenced, together with the memorial & abstract of the laws in England on that head, and the proposal made to the convention of extending the same to Scotland, with the variations suited to this part of the United Kingdom contain'd in the said memorial, the committee gave it as their oppinion that a coppy of that memorial should be transmitted to Mr James Ker, city member, and that the lord provost of Edinbr. should write to him to use his best endeavours to have the laws in England anent retailers of ale, beer, brandy, aquavity, and other spirituous liquors, in so far as concerns

EDINBURGH. 14 November 1749.

Memorial anent ale houses, &ca., to be sent to Mr James Ker at London.

their being prohibited to exercise that trade without a propper licence, together with the penaltys against transgressors mentioned in the last part of the memorial, extended to Scotland, with this express proviso that the magistrats of royal burrows and other incorporat towns should have the sole jurisdiction in that matter over their own inhabitants.

11 December 1749.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esq., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Robert Montgomery; Inverness, John Baillie; Queensferry, George Drummond; Elgine, Peter Duff; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

Act anent the unfree trade, & the lord advocat to draw up a state yrof.

The which day the lord provost of Edinbr. reported that according to the appointment of the last sederunt he had transmitted to Mr Ker, member for the city of Edinbr., a coppy of the memorial sent by the provost of Glasgow concerning the cess of the burghs of barrony and regality and the clause to be applyed for in the land tax bill for making the same effectual; that he had received an answer from Mr Ker in which he suggested sundry difficultys that had cast up in that matter, and that as it was a matter of general concern, it was propper that all the representatives of the burrows should be wrote to on that head and not left intirely on the representative for Edinbr. Which being considered by the committee, they judged it propper that a state of the unfree trade and the defects in the laws now inforceing the payment of that cess should be drawn up by the lord advocat, in order to be laid before the lords of the treasury and the burrows' representatives in parliament, that joint measures may be taken to obtain the aforsaid clause in the land tax bill, and appoint the agent to wait of the lord advocat and know what time he will appoint for that purpose.

13 January 1750.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Robert Montgomry, D.G., and Adam Drummond; Inverness, John Baillie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Inverury, Walter Ferguson.

The committee having received a letter from Mr Francis Grant concerning the herring and cod fisherys, and they being informed that the provost of Glasgow had wrote to him a memorial on that subject, a coppy of which was also sent to the lord provost of Edinbr., they appoint their preses to write to Mr Francis Grant to observe what is set forth in the said memorial and follow the directions therein-contain'd.

EDINBURGH. 13 January 1750.

6 March 1750.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edr., preses; Edinburgh, Adam Drummond; Inverness, John Baillie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Air, Andrew Huntar; Elgin, Patrick M'Duff; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

Sederunt.

The preses laid before the committee a printed coppy of the bill brought into parliament for the encouragment of the British white herring and cod fisherys, which was sent him by Mr Francis Grant, now at London, and the committee having read over the same, they appoint the said bill to be reprinted; and a coppy to be sent to each royal burrow, and as Mr Francis Grant had bespoke twenty-five thousand pounds in the capital stock for the royal burrows, to desire the burrows to give notise to the preses what share of the said sum each burrow and the gentlemen in their neighbourhead would take of the said capital; which bill was reprinted & the letters sent accordingly.

Bill for the British white herring to be reprinted.

The same day the committee approve of the draught of a letter to be sent to Mr Francis Grant, in answer to his of the first instant, & of which the tenor follows:—

Sr.,—I am favour'd with yours of the 1st., which I communicat to the annual committee of the royal burrows, met this day for that purpose, who at the same time read the bill with some attention, and have ordered it to be printed here and coppies to be transmitted to the several burrows in Scotland.

Letter to Mr Francis Grant at London.

EDINBURGH. 6 March 1750.

Letter to Mr Francis Grant at London.

Att the desire of the committee I take this opportunity to acquaint yow that they have unanimously approven of your conduct hitherto in this affair, and directed me to return yow their thanks; they are also unanimously of oppinion that the subscription of £25,000 in name of the chamber of Edinburgh, for the behoof of the several burrows and privat adventurers in Scotland who choise to be concerned therein, is a verry right measure, and they seem to have no doubt that the subscription for that sum will soon be fill'd up here; but yow know verry well that the annual committee have no powers to settle a matter of that kind soe as to make it binding upon any of the burrows of Scotland; all wee can doe in that matter is to transmit coppys of the bill to the several burrows, soe that they or their privat inhabitants may come to a resolution what part of the £25,000 they will take, and when their returns come hither yow shall be acquainted therewith, but yow know as many of them are at a distance yow cannot expect that soon.

At reading the bill in the committee there was some things occurred to some of the members, which are put down in a memorial herein sent and which yow'le suggest to the members, who will judge how far they are inconveniencys and procure the propper remedy.—I am, sr., yours, Arch. M'Aulay, pres.

Edinbr., 6th March 1750.

12 April 1750.

Sederunt.

Edinbr., Robert Montgomry, preses, and Adam Drummond, preses; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Queensferry, George Drummond; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

Act anent Mr Ffrancis Grant & his letter.

The which day the commissioner for Edinbr. laid before the committee a letter directed to the lord provost of Edinbr. from Mr Francis Grant, dated at London, April 7th, 1750, acquainting that the Commons had agreed to the amendment made by the Lords to the fishery bill, and that it was now lying for the royal assent, and desireing the committee's particular instructions as to the chamber at

Edinbr. for the behoof of the royal burrows. Which letter being read, the committee appoint the same to be sent to the lord provost of Edinbr. desireing his lordship's oppinion as to that matter, and to know what answers he had received from the particular burrows to whom he wrote on the sixth of March last; and also appoint the commissioner for Edinbr. to write to Mr Grant acknowledging the recept of his, and that they would write him a particular answer when they got the return of the lord provost's letter from the country; both which were wrote accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 12 April 1750. Act anent Mr Ffrancis Grant & his letter.

14 April 1750.

Edinbr., Robert Montgomry, D.G., preses, & Adam Drummond; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Queensferry, George Drummond; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

Sederunt.

The which day the commissioner for Edinbr. laid before the committee an answer from the lord provost of Edinbr. to their letter of the 12th currt., acquainting them that with relation to the 25,000 pounds intended for the burrows, the committee nor any particular burrow could contract for it untill the meeting of the convention in July next, and soe the propper way would be to call the individuals in each burrow and know what they would subscribe for; and that the merchants of Edr. should be call'd for that end, and books open'd to lye at the town clerk's chamber for taking in subscriptions, of which the other towns may be advertised either to follow that course or to take a share wt. them in the Edr. chamber. Which, with Mr Grant's former letter, being considered by the committee, they appoint the preses to write Mr Grant an answer in the following terms:—

Answer to Mr Ffrancis Grant's letter.

Sr.,—Our merchants here have had a meeting on the subject of the fishery, and I am of oppinion the subscriptions of the people here, and of those who may sign alongst with them, will amount at least to a sum which will entitle Edinburgh to a chamber; but in order to clear their way, they have ordered me to appryse yow of the sense in which they

EDINBURGH. 14 April 1750. Answer to Mr Ffrancis Grant's letter.

understand this act, and to acquaint yow with what things, in relation to this matter, they wish to be satisfy'd about, that yow may give them all the light in it yow can.

By the clause in it relating to chambers, it seems to be intended that every chamber, by a committee chosen by a majority of their own subscribers, should have the absolute direction of the intrests of this chamber in the fishery stock, and have leave to carry on the fishing for themselves as fully as if they were a seperat company, except as to their being oblidged to use the marks of the company, and to be entitled to draw their three pounds upon the hundred for all the money which they imploy on the fishing, after deducting the necessary charge and expence ariseing from the recept of the same. What is the need, then, of such chambers being oblidged to pay in the several ten pr. cent. calls into the Bank of England, since it might be inconvenient for every other chamber of the company, London excepted, to keep their cash there. Can't this inconveniency be remedied by the patent, and leave given to every chamber to keep their own cash in the way that is most convenient for them—ours, for example, may be allow'd to keep our cash with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Tho no other provision is settled in relation to calls but such as are made by the company, yet won't it be settled by the chamber, or by the by-laws to be made by the company, that every chamber have power by their committee to make the calls which the carrying on the trade may require from all the partners subscrivers in that chamber, and these partners in default to be subject to the same forfeitures as in the case of not answering the calls to be made by the company under the direction of the committee of the chamber.

If the first call must be paid into the Bank of England, won't that bank open an accompt with every particular chamber, and give them leave as soon as they think propper to draw it out again by three of their committee, or rather by a person appointed and authorized to draw out the same. The only use that wee see the moneys being lodged in the Bank of England is of that such sums as are contracted for to be

EDINBURGH. 14 April 1750. Answer to Mr Ffrancis Grant's letter.

paid by the different chambers within six months shall be deemed, as if employed in the trade, to entitle them to the three pr. cent., if the money to satisfy these contracts is lying in the bank and to remain there. I am directed to request yow to get and forward hither as soon as yow can coppy of the charter how soon it is prepared, and of the gentlemen with yow, their thoughts of what bylaws may be propper for the company to enact, in which great care should be taken that they adapted to the carrying on the trade in the distant chambers as well as in London, that if any thing occurrs to us upon it wee may offer it.

In order to be able to judge with more certainty how far people in and about this place are disposed to be adventurers, wee have prepared a provisional preamble to subscriptions which we'll begin to take in next week, and by next post yow'le probably have some furder directions from the annual committee; in the mean time please acquaint me if yow have any particular orders for taking measures to have a chamber for any other of the burrows.

Can't it be contrived so as that the burrows shall be secured in having the £25,000 yow had them marked down for, or a greater sum if they choise it, and how is this to be done; I shall expect your answer, and am, sr., your most humble servant,

Robert Montgomerie, preses.

17 April 1750.

Sederunt.

Edinbr., Robert Montgomry, preses, and Adam Drummond, conveener; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Huntar; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Queensferry, George Drummond, Esqr.

The royal burrows wrote to anent the fishery bill now made a law.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr Francis Grant, dated at London the 12th instant, wherein he acquaints them that the fishery bill had now received his Majesty's royal assent and thereby become an act of parliat.; and the committee being inform'd of the resolution of some of the merchants

EDINBURGH. 17 April 1750. The royal burrows wrote to anent the fishery bill now made a law.

of Edinbr. to have a chamber and a share in the stock of the fishing company, they appoint their preses to write to the several burrows acquainting them thereof in the following terms:—

Sr.,—The committee of the royal burrows having considered the publick encouragment contain'd in the late act of parliament for promoteing the white herring fishery, and the priviledge of having distinct chambers under the direction of such city or corporation being a seaport as shall take a share to the extent of £10,000, and being satisfyed that there will be a chamber opened in pursuance of the resolutions of the merchants of this city, wee therefor this day prepared the inclosed preamble to be prefixed to the books for taking in subscriptions at the town clerk's chamber of Edinbr., which the committee desire to signify to your incorporation, that if any of your merchants, or others, choise to have a share under the direction of the chamber at Edinburgh, they may without loss of time give propper directions for being assumed partners in the stock of the said chamber. —I am, sr., your most humble servant,

Edr., 17th April 1750. Robert Montgomerie, preses.

1 May 1750.

Sederunt.

Edinbr., Robert Montgomry, preses; Inverness, John Baillie; Dingwall, John Dingwall; Queensferry, George Drummond, Esqr.: Air, Andrew Huntar.

Letter to Mr Francis Grant approven.

The which day the preses laid before the committee two letters from Mr Francis Grant, one of the 19th of April & an other of the 21st of that moneth, in answer to their letter of the 14th, in which he acquaints the committee of his own oppinion as to the difficultys stated by them, but that he had not yet received General Ogilthrop or Mr Alderman Janson's oppinion thereanent; to which the committee appoint their preses to return him the following answer:—

Sr.,—Your favours of the 21st of April came to my hand only on Saturnday last, which I laid before the committee this day; they will be

glad to hear the oppinion of General Ogilthrope and Mr Alderman Janson concerning the particulars I wrote of on the 14th ultimo., which I shall expect yow will favour me with how soon they come to hand, and with the coppy of the patent when it is prepared; in the mean time the subscriptions are going on, both in this town and at Montrose and several other towns in Scotland, tho a great many lye off till they shall see a coppy of the patent. I shall acquaint yow how soon the subscriptions are full, and am, sr., your most humble servt., Robert Montgomgerie, preses.

EDINBURGH. 1 May 1750. Letter to Mr Francis Grant approven.

Edinbr., 1st May 1750.

4 May 1750.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr, Robt. Montgomery; Air, Andrew Huntar; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Queensferry, George Drummond; Inverness, John Baillie.

Sederunt.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter directed to the commissioner for Edr. from Mr Ffrancis Grant, dated at London the 26th of April last, acquainting them that he had not yet received General Ogilthrope & Mr Janson's answers as to the queries sent upon the 14th ulto. concerning the chambers & the ffishing company, but desireing to know that incase the subscription of £25,000 should not be filled up, if it would not be propper to take in some subscribers at London, and tho it should exceed that sum it might be of benefit to have some of the partners resideing in London; to which the committee appoint their preses to return the following answer:—

Letter to Mr Ffrancis Grant approven.

Sr.,—Yours directed to Mr Montgomery of the 26 ulto. came to my hand upon my return to Edinbr., and upon considering your proposition of admitting Londoners to subscribe in the Edinbr. chamber, I thought it propper to call the annual committee, who have agreed to admit any person in London to subscribe for what they please, not exceeding ten shares, by giveing propper authority to any correspondent here to

EDINBURGH. 4 May 1750. Letter to Mr Ffrancis Grant approven.

subscribe for them—it is what they had always in view; and the committee are of oppinion with yow that it will be an advantage to have people in London concern'd in the Edinbr. chamber, who will be of use to promote the general concerns of it. I have inclosed a coppy of the printed preamble to the Edinburgh subscriptions, which should been sent yow formerly, by whose neglect I know not, being then in the country. Our merchants here are fond to see a coppy of the patent before it is extended for signing, that they may have an opportunity to offer any thing that occurs to them, and a great many lye off to sign till they see it. I have no more to add, but that I shall be glad to have General Ogilthrope and Alderman Janson's oppinion as to the particulars in dean of gild Montgomry's letter, when their leisure will allow them to consider of it, and am, sr., your most humble servt.,

Edinbr., 4th May 1750. Arch. M'Aulay, pres.

7 June 1750.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, Robert Montgomry; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgine, Patrick Duff; Queensferry, George Drummond; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat.

Letter to Mr Ffrancis Grant at London.

The which day the preses laid before the committee three letters from Mr Ffrancis Grant at London, dated the 10th, 12th, & 19th ultimo., to which they appoint their preses to return the following answer:—

Sr.,—Your letters of the 10th, 12th, & 19th ulto. were this day laid before a meeting of the annual committee, and I have directions to acquaint yow that they approve of your having paid in £25 sterl. upon the £25,000 yow signed for the royal burrows under the name of the chamber for Edinburgh, and to return yow their thanks for this good service; yow know they h'an't the power to issue any money, but they bid me acquaint yow that they will lay it before the convention who, no doubt, will give orders for your being reimbursed of it.

EDINBURGH. 7 June 1750. Letter to Mr Ffrancis Grant at London.

As wee have no body to correspond with but yow on this subject, they are of oppinion it is adviseable that yow remain in London till the convention meets, to be assisting while the patent is preparing and till the bylaws are settled, in order to take all the care yow can that nothing may be enacted therein which may be prejudicial to the intrests of the out chambers, for wee find it is the general disposition of people here to be partners in these particular chambers upon such a foot as to have the absolute direction and managment of their own chamber independent of the direction of the company.

In Glasgow and the country about there is above £13,000 subscribed, and £10,000 in Montrose, there is not above £5000 signed for here yet, probably there will be £10,000 sign'd for here, but wee should be verry glad to have the subscription for the chamber of Edinbr. as high as it can be gott, and in order to it wee are verry willing that as many people in London, or in England in general, as please should be allowed to subscribe into it, and for that end I inclose a coppy of the preamble to the subscriptions here, that yow may prepare a fair coppy of it and take as many subscriptions to it as yow can get. I give yow full liberty to assure the subscrivers that they may depend upon it that in the regulations which that chamber settles for their own goverment, care will be taken that absent members will be allowed to vote by letter or proxy in all their meetings. All the subscriptions that have been taken hitherto are no more then a signification of people's intentions to be proprietors so far of the grand capital—for, till the charter is past, it's uncertain whether these subscribers will get to be proprietors in the £500,000 to the extent of these subscriptions, yea or not, your signing £25,000 for the royal burrows is but a provisional subscription; pray how is this matter to be settled?

What I mean, and what I have the annual committee's orders to desire to have your answer upon is: Glasgow and Montrose, yow see, have signed £23,000, the subscription for a chamber for Edinburgh may be a greater sum, other burrows may sign likeways—now how far may they depend upon their getting leave to be, and remain, proprietors

EDINBURGH. 7 June 1750. Letter to Mr Ffrancis Grant at London.

in the £500,000 to the full extent of the subscriptions taken here? and how is that to be ascertain'd. Will the company when they have gott their patent, att the same time that they open a subscription in London, give leave to open a subscription for a limited time at these out ports, and notify it to them that they have this leave in the London Gazette? or in what other manner will the people at the out ports have access to subscrive.

Yow may continue to advise the committee from time to time what is doing at London in these matters betwixt this and the first meeting of the general convention, which is the third of July, and then yow will receive their particular directions.—I am, sr., your most humble servt.,

Edinr., 7th June 1750. Arch. M'Aulay, pres.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

3 July 1750.

EDINBURGH 3 July 1750. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Robert Montgomry & Adam Drummond; Perth, James Crie; Dundee, George Yeaman; Aberdeen, Alexander Robertson; Stirling, William Chrystie; Linlithgow, Allan Wauch; St Andrews, John Tod; Glasgow, Andrew Cochran; Air, Thomas Girvine; Hadingtoun, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, Robert Henderson; Kirkaldie, Robert White; Montrose, David Doig; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, John Frazer; Bruntisland, Thomas Chrystie; Innerkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, James Boyle; Jedburgh, John Ainslie; Kirkudbright, Mr James Stewart; Pittenweem, John Mortoun; Dumferling, John Wilson; Anstruther Wester, David Aikenhead; Selkirk, William Currier; Ranfrew, Robert Somervell; Dumbar, Robert Fall; Lanerk, Christopher Ballantyne; Aberbrothock, John Gairdner; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Thomas Younge; Tain, The Master of Ross; Culross, James Johnstoun; Banf, James Innes; Whithorn, John

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1750. Sederunt.

M'Gowan; Forfar, William Brown; Ruthglen, John Paterson; North Berwick, Willm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, William Romanus; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabine, John Maxwell; Sanquhar, John Crighton; Dingwall, Collin M'Kenzie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintoir, Robert Bruce; Inverurie, Walter Ferguson; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant; Inverbervie, Mr Charles Maitland; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (eleven burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he having formerly qualifyed to his Majesty King George the Second as the law directs.

Committee to revise the commissions.

2. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Brechin, Kirkudbright, Dumferling, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Elgin, Peebles, Tain, Banf, Cullen, Queensferry, Kirkwall, Inverbervie, and Stranraer as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to this convention; and they having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—James Stewart, assessor for Edinburgh; William Stewart, assessor for Perth; John Balnagall, assessor for Dundee; Robert Henderson for Dysert; James Murray for Kirkudbright; Thomas Chrystie for Bruntisland; John Gairdner for Aberbrothock; Robert Somervell for Ranfrew; William Walker for Inverkeithing; William Thomson, assessor for Jedburgh; John Maxwell for Lochmaben; Christopher Bannantyne for Lanerk; John Muretown for Pittenweem; and John Brodie for Inverbervie.

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2d. art. of the missive read.

3. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Report & Mr Whitfoord's accotts. presented.

4. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for fisherys and manufactures, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in the accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders for the said year preceeding Christmas last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusal of the members.

Eodem die.

Commissions approven.

5. The committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard and considered the commissions for the burghs of Kirkaldie, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Irving, Jedburgh, Pittenweem, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Craill, Culross, Whithorn, Sanquhar, Ruglen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Kintore, and Inverurie, were of oppinion that the whole commissions should be sustain'd, except the commission to the assessor for Selkirk, which they were of oppinion should not be sustain'd untill he depones or declares to the verity of his qualification mentioned in the commission. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report and appoint the assessor for Selkirk to verify that he has the qualification mentioned in the commission before he can act, treat, or vote in this convention.

Annl. missive committed

6. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named.

39th act of conv. read.

7. The same day the thirty-ninth act of the last convention anent giveing of money or increasing the missive dues upon the first motion, was presented to the preses and publickly read in the convention according to appointment.

Eodem die post meridiem.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1750.

Commissions approven.

8. The convention having heard read the commission from Inverness appointing John Frazer, late provost, their commissioner, and John Baillie, writer to the signet, his assessor, and the commission from North Berwick in favour of William Grant of Prestongrange, Esqr., his Majesty's advocat, to be their commissioner, and Mr Robert Hog, merchant, to be his assessor, as also the commission from the burgh of Sanquhar to James Crighton, eldest son of John Crighton, present provost and one of the councillors of the burrow, to be their commissioner, and likeways from the burgh of Dingwall to Collin M'Kenzie of Kilroy, Esqr., and Mr John Dingwall, writer, to be his assessor, they approve of the sd. commissions.

Heads of the missive continued.

9. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the present annual missive reported that they having considered the several heads of the missive were of oppinion that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, ninth, tenth, twelveth, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, and nineteenth articles of the missive be continued, particularly the tax roll as it now stands, for one year untill July iajvij & and fifty-one; and are of oppinion that the seventh article should be continued with this variation, that in place of these words (and the convention recommended to the several royal burrows to cause put the said act of parliament to due execution within their several bounds, a coppy of which act was sent to be recorded in the books of the royal burrows), that part of the article should run thus, and the convention recommended to the several royal burrows to cause put the acts of parliament and act of the burrows to due execution within their several bounds, a coppy of the said act of the burrows having been sent to be recorded in the several council books of the royal burrows; and were further of oppinion with regaurd to this article, that a particular committee should be appointed to consider what is most propper to be done in order effectually to subject unfree traders to a due proportion of the tax roll in releif of the royal burrows; that the eight article should be continued, and in order to secure the intrest of traders that the

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1750.

Heads of the missive continued.

Law for the easy & equal destribution of bankrupt's effects to be applyed for.

following motion from Glasgow should be taken under the consideration of the convention, vizt.:—whether it would not be propper & expedient to apply next session of parliament for a law to the following purposes: *Primo*, for the more speedy and easie distribution of the effects of such person or persons as hereafter shall become bankrupt in Scotland. *Secundo*, to prevent insolvent debiters from giveing by connivance or collusion undue preference to any of their creditors. *Tertio*, that a statute of limitation appointing some short prescription to bills and promissory notes should take place in Scotland to prevent the great danger of forgery in such securitys, vouched solely by a single subscription, the inconveniency of which is soe manifastly obvious; that to attain their ends my lord advocat should be requested to prepare a bill and to consider how far it may be also propper to advise a clause for facilitating the distribution of the effects of deceased copartners in trade and prevent the great delays & charges ariseing from confirmations in the commissary courts, and whatever else may contribut to promote the intrest of trade with respect to the above matters; that it should be recommended to his lordship to advise with the Lords of Session & take the assistance of other gentlemen learn'd in the law in frameing a propper bill on this important subject; that the lord advocat should be authorized to imploy a propper solicitor in carrying on such bill to execution, and that the same should be done on the publick expence of the burrows; and that it should be earnestly recommended to the several burrows to suggest such clauses as they may judge propper to be made part of the intended bill, and transmit the same to the annual committee to be considered by them before they are submitted to the judgment of the lord advocat; that when the proposed bill shall be formed the preses of the annual committee should be appointed to write letters to the members of parliament from Scotland, and such other persons of note whose countenance may be deem'd of importance, praying their attention and intrest for turning the bill into an act as being of the highest consequence to his Majestie's subjects in North Britain. That the eleventh article should be continued with this variation,

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1750.

Heads of the missive continued.

that in place of the penalty of one hundred pound Scots the penalty for each transgression in time comeing should be twenty pound sterling, and that the magistrats on or before the first of March annually should cause proclamation be made over the mercat crosses that all lintseed is to be sold by the Linlithgow measure, and order the above penalty and this clause to be added to the eleventh article of the missive; that the sixteenth article should be struck out of the missive; that the last clause in the seventeenth article should run thus—and furder the convention did recommend to the said magistrats to give all due encouragment to the distilling & consumeing of spirits of the grouth of our native country; that the eighteenth article touching the state of the town of Jedburgh should be taken under the consideration of the convention, and in order to the better observation of the regulations of trade and manufactures, that the missive should be annually transmitted to the burrows as soon as possible after the riseing of the convention, and thereafter a particular note of the missive dues transmitted to each burrow at the usual time before the meeting of the next convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and appoint the several articles of the missive abovementioned to continue in full force for one year; and that the seventh, eleventh, & seventeenth articles should be continued with the above proposed amendments, and the sixteenth article struck out; and the convention appoint their agent to prosecut such of the magistrats of royal burrows as have not complyed with the eleventh article in order to recover the penaltys therein contain'd, and particularly the magistrats of the burghs of St Andrews and Coupar who, as is informed, have transgressed agt. this article; and appoint the missive to be printed & transmitted to the several burrows on or before the end of December next, to facilitat the observation of the regulation therein contain'd with the regaurd to trade and manufactures; and approve of all the parts of the above motion from Glasgow, and authorize the agent to issue the charges in carrying on so valuable a law for the intrest of the tradeing part of the nation.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1750. Jedburgh's report committed.

10. The same day the convention takeing to consideration the state of the town of Jedburgh, they appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, Queensferry, Stranraer, & Selkirk as their committee to examin what is set forth in the printed state, and report their oppinion against the next dyet of the convention, whereof any three to be a quorum, Edinburgh being one.

Petn. for Tain referr'd to a committee.

11. The same day the convention having heard read a petition from the burgh of Tayne setting forth the oppressions they met with by a lawsuit with the Laird of Cadboll, and praying the aid of the convention for their releif. Which being considered, they remit the same to the above mentioned committee on the town of Jedburgh with the same powers, and they to report their oppinion to the next dyet of the convention.

Objection agt. the assessor for Selkirk.

12. The same day the convention having considered the objection to the commission to the assessor for Selkirk, whose right appears only to be a superiority, soe that his lands doe not hold burgage, and having considered the platform upon this head, they agree to delay the determination of this objection till an after dyet.

Agent's accotts. presented.

13. The same day the agent gave in his accompts into the clerk's hands, and the same were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

4 July 1750.

Agent to pay Tain 20 guineas.

14. The which day the committee appointed to consider the application to the convention from the town of Tayne, reported that having considered their petition and being sensible of the great oppression they met with from Mr M'Leod of Cadboll, and the distressed condition the community is reduced to by the several oppressive processes carryed on against the burgh by that gentleman, were unanimously of oppinion that the convention should take the case under their particular protection, and authorize and appoint their agent to concur with the magistrats in carrying on the proces against

Cadboll presently depending before the lords, and imploy Mr Joseph Williamson, advocat, to appear as a lawier in name of the burrows for assisting the town of Tayne in the course of the said proces; and that the agent should be authorized to issue out twenty guineas this year for enabling the town to vindicat its just rights, leaving it to the consideration of the next convention whether or not any furder releif should be granted to the burgh of Tayn with respect to their proces with Cadboll. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the agent to pay the forsaid twenty guineas to David Monro, agent for the town of Tayne, upon his recept.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1750.

Agent to pay Tain 20 guineas.

15. The same day the committee on the affair of Jedburgh reported that having considered the state of the town of Jedburgh, the vouchers of their decayed condition, as contain'd in a report from the commissioners of Selkirk and Lauder appointed to inquire into the same by a former convention, they were highly sensible that the case of the burrow calls for releif as soon as the tax roll shall be opened, and in order to make way for such releif were of oppinion the eighteenth article touching the state of this town should be continued a head of the missive, and that the convention for their immediat aid should appoint their agent to issue out the sum of twenty pound sterling to be applyed at the sight of the commissioners from Selkirk and Lauder to assist the town of Jedburgh in the reparation of their town house & common prison, presently in need of reparation. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the agent to pay the same accordingly.

Agent to pay Jedburgh 20 lit. sterl.

16. The same day the convention appoint the following committee to audit the agent's accompts and report, vizt.:—Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Dumfreise, North Berwick, Air, Queensferry, Inverness, Annan, and Kirkudbright, any five to be a quorum, whereof Edinburgh to be one.

Committee on the agent's accotts.

17. The same day the convention appoint the committee on the agent's accompts to consider what should now be done with regaurd

Committee on the unfree trade.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1750.

Committee on the unfree trade.

to their unfree trade, in order to recover their quota of the land tax and prevent such unfree traders from running away with the advantages intended by law to royal burrows and others on the tax roll, and to concert such clause or clauses as they shall judge necessary to be passed into a law for attaining the above ends, and to lay the same before the meeting of the convention to morrow at their forenoon's dyet, and to meet for the said end at five a cloak this afternoon, whereof any three to be a quorum, Edinbr. being one; and furder that the convention should recommend it to all the burrows, so soon as this affair is rype for ane application to the legislature, to write to their representatives in parliament, earnestly requesting their aid and countenance in an affair soe interesting to the whole state of burrows.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

18. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, did observe that the committee had been at great pains in managing the affairs of the burrows since the last convention, especially that with regaurd to the white herring ffishery, doe therefor appoint their preses to return the committee the thanks of the convention, and doe unanimously approve of their proceedings; and having considered the great application of Mr Francis Grant, imploy'd by the last convention to take care of the intrest of the burrows at London with respect to the scheme for carrying on the white herring fisherys, they approve of his conduct and assiduous correspondance with the annual committee, and appoint the agent to issue out to his order fifty pounds sterling as the other moyetie due to him in consequence of his dilligence in that affair; as also they authorize and appoint their agent to reimburse Mr Grant of the sum of twenty-five pound sterling as the proportion effeiring to the twenty-five thousand pounds bespoke in name of the royal burrows for defraying the expence of procureing the patent and seting forward the fishery schem, upon produceing satisfying evidence to the annual committee of his having paid the same, it being always resolved that their agent shall be reimbursed of the said twenty-five pound sterling by the burrows

Agent to pay Mr Francis Grant 50 lit. sterl. and 25 lit. for the expence of the patent, &ca.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1750.

subscriveing and takeing a share in the fishery company, and that in proportion to the shares they subscrive for, at the rate of twenty shillings for every thousand pounds subscrived for.

Committee to consider Mr Grant's negotiations.

19. The same day the convention having considered several of Mr Grant's letters, wrote since the proceedings of the annual committee were closed, containing some observations that seem material for the intrest of the burrows with respect to the proposed plan for the charter or patent to be obtain'd in favours of the fishery company, doe therefor remit to the committee on the agent's accompts to consider these letters and whatever has hitherto passed in the burrows relative to that affair, and report their oppinion of the measure that ought to be followed by the convention, and that against their dyet to morrow forenoon, any five, Edinburgh being one, to be a quorum of this committee.

List of arrears of cess & missive dues presented.

20. The same day it was reported that the general receiver of the land tax had lodged a list of arrears of cess due by the burghs of Dornock, Wick, Inverary, and Kirkwall, payable for the service of the year iajvij & and fourty-six and succeeding years, and praying the convention should take such measures as should seem propper to make the same effectual; it was also reported that the agent had lodged in the clerk's hands a list of the arrears of missive dues.

The assr. for Selkirk rejected.

21. The same day the convention having considered the objection to the commission of the assessor from Selkirk, they find it does not come up to the platform, and therefor reject his commission.

Petition for Eymouth presented & committed.

22. The same day the convention having heard a petition of the merchants and inhabitants of the town of Eymouth, praying the aid of the convention for enabling them to finish a harbour, which has been carrying on by voluntary contributions, as the work is thought advantagious to the intrest of traders and the safe navigation of the east coast of Scotland. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accompts, and they to report.

EDINBURGH, 4 July 1750.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Agent's accompt of unfree trade approven.

23. The same day the committee appointed to audit the agent's accompts reported that they having considered the accompt of his intromissions with the cess and missive dues of the burghs of barrony & regality, find that he charges himself with two thousand four hundred and nine pound two shilling 2½ twelveths of a penny Scots as the arrears of the burghs of barrony and regality at July 1748, and with the year's cess and missive dues chargable upon the said burghs at July 1749 being two thousand seven hundred fourty-one pound ffourteen shilling eleven pennies, amounting the said sums to five thousand one hundred and fifty pound sixteen shilling eleven pennies 2½ twelveths Scots; and that his discharge, inclusive of two thousand five hundred and twelve pound ten shilling seven pence one twelveth of arrears due by the said burghs at July 1749 years, amounts to five thousand two hundred sixty eight pound eighteen shilling five pence seven twelveths, whereby there is a ballance due to the agent on this accompt of one hundred and eighteen pound one shilling six pennies four and a half twelveths of a penny Scots, which sum he has taken credit for in this year's accompt of missive dues; and the committee find his discharge sufficiently instructed, the instructions being sealed by the preses are left in the clerk's hands. Which report & accompt being considered by the convention, they approve thereof, and of which accompt the tenor follows:—

. . . . . .

[24. Agent's accompt of missive dues approven.]

Annl. committee to consider the arrears due by Prestonpans, Cockeny, & Lymkilns.

25. The same day the committee to whom the agent's accompts were remit reported that they having considered the arrears given up as due by the towns of Prestonpans, Cockeny, and Limekilns, which have been resting for many years, were of oppinion that the convention should remit to the annual committee to take propper measures for recovering these arrears, and incase they find it impracticable to recover

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1750.

Annl. committee to consider the arrears due by Prestonpans, Cockeny, & Lymkilns.

the full of these arrears, to compone with the burghs, but without departing from the contract subsisting betwixt them and the royal burrows to enter into new agreements with them for time to come on such terms as the committee shall think fitt. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and remit to the annual committee to doe what they think fitt and reasonable.

Agent to pay to Eymouth 30 lit. sterl.

26. The same day the committee to whom the petition of the town of Eymouth was remitted reported that they having considered the said petition were of oppinion that the harbour of Eymouth being most conveniently situate for the navigation of the east coast of Scotland, the putting the same in repair would be highly beneficial to the trade of this part of the kingdom, which could not be done without expending large sums of money, altho there has been a good deall already collected yet it would be far short of what would be necessary for compleating the repair of the said harbour, and that therefor the convention should not only appoint their agent to issue out the sum of thirty pound sterling to be applyed towards the repairing of the harbour of Eymouth at the sight of Dumbar, but that they should likewise recommend the consideration of the said petition to all the royal burrows, that they may contribut thereto as they shall see cause and so usefull and beneficial a work deserves. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to pay to George Chalmers, agent for the town of Eymouth, the sum of thirty pounds sterling to be applyed towards repairing the said harbour at the sight of Dumbar, and did & hereby doe recommend the consideration of the said petition to all the royal burrows to the effect mentioned in the report.

Annl. committee to consider the unfree trade, &.

27. The same day the committee to whom the consideration of the unfree trade was remitted reported that in their oppinion the convention should referr the same to the annual committee who are to meet immediatly after the riseing of the convention, as the convention will not have now time to consider thereof in such manner as so

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1750. Annl. committee to consider the unfree trade, &.

important ane affair requires, and that the said committee should be appointed to meet and consider thereof in the most deliberat manner, and that all the members of the convention who are then in town should be appointed to attend & give their advice and assistance. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and referr the consideration of the unfree trade to the annual committee who are to meet immediatly after riseing of this convention, and recommend to all the members of the convention who are then in town to attend the said committee to the effect mentioned in the report.

Two charters and two few contracts approven.

28. The same day there was presented to the convention a charter by the magistrats of Coupar in favours of John Thomson, merchant there, and an other in favours of Doctor George Bethune, a contract of few betwixt the town of Kirkaldie and Thomas Geddes, a contract of excambion betwixt Lord Sinclair and the town of Dysert, all which were approven of by the convention and appointed to be recorded in the books of convention after the riseing of the convention.

Agent to pay to Mr Joseph Wmson. 5 guineas, and ½ guinea to his clerk.

29. The same day the member from Glasgow inform'd the convention that Mr Joseph Williamson had been at a good deall of trouble in drawing two memorialls in relation to the unfree trade. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their agent to pay to Mr Williamson five pound five shillings sterling and ten shillings and sixpence to his clerk for his trouble therein.

5 July 1750.

Act anent Mr Francis Grant, and appointing the agent to pay to him 30 guineas.

30. The which day the committee to whom it was remit of yesterday's date to consider of the correspondance betwixt the annual committee and Mr Francis Grant relative to the fishery bill, reported they were of oppinion there is no occasion for Mr Grant's staying longer at London upon the affairs of the royal burrows, and that the preses should write him accordingly; and as to the twenty-five thousand pounds bespoke by Mr Grant by the name of the chamber of Edinbr., they were of oppinion that the preses should write to Mr Grant to give full powers to

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750.

Act anent Mr Francis Grant, and appointing the agent to pay to him 30 guineas.

Mr Robert Dunwoddie, merchant at London, to dispose of the said twenty-five thousand pounds to such burrows and persons as he shall be directed by the annual committee, and to give Mr Dunwoddie advise and information in the matter, taking care that the state of burrows as such shall not be lyable for payment of the said twenty-five thousand pounds, or any part thereof, but the particular burrows and persons to whom the same shall be made over by direction of the annual committee; and it was their oppinion the preses should write Mr Dunwoddie that the convention have wrote to Mr Grant to the above purpose, and to desire Mr Dunwoddie to take the trouble of disposeing of the above twenty-five thousand pounds as the annual committee shall appoint, he always receiving from such burrows or persons as shall get any part of the said twenty-five thousand pounds their proportional part of the twenty-five pound deposited by Mr Grant and now reimbursed to him by the convention, for which he, Mr Dunwoddie, is to accompt; and that the preses furder desire of Mr Dunwoddie to enquire into the nature of the charter to be granted to the grand society at London, and the bylaws to be framed by them or their directors, and to remonstrat agt. such as he shall judge detrimental to the chambers in Scotland or to the intrest of the royal burrows, and correspond with the annual committee and follow their directions and transmit to them a coppy of the charter and of such bylaws when framed; but the committee left it to the consideration of the convention whether any or what sum of money should be paid to Mr Grant for and in consideration of his staying at London since the riseing of the parliament. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint their preses to write to Mr Grant & Mr Dunwiddie in manner directed by the report; and in consideration of Mr Francis Grant's stay at London since the riseing of the parliament and that he has corresponded with the annual committee since, they appoint their agent to pay to Mr Grant thirty guineas in full of all demands.

Mr Dunwoodie appointed.

Annl. committee to consider a memorl. anent the customhouse officers & their fees.

31. The same day a memorial was presented in name of the merchants in Edinburgh and other merchants complaining of grivances

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750. Annl. committee to consider a memorl. anent the customhouse officers & their fees.

affecting the trade of Scotland by the intollerable exactions of fees upon export and import, &ca., at most or all of the ports, and by delaying to pay debentures upon fish, corn, linning, &ca., when exported. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee and they to report; and in the meantime they recommend to the committee to co-operat and concurr with the merchants to have all those grivances redrest, or any other grivances that may from time to time occurr to or be complain'd of by the merchants.

Annl. committee to apply to open the importation of bar iron from the British plantations to Scotland.

32. The same day it was moved to the convention that the parliament having allowed bar iron to be imported from his Majesty's plantations to the port of London duty free, in consideration that no iron made in Britain is used there and that their consumpt is wholly of Swedish and Russia iron purchased for the far greatest part with money or bills of exchange, and the convention considering that these reasons are equally true with respect to the consumpt of Scotland as of London, recommend to their annual committee when they shall judge propper to petition the honble. the House of Commons for extending the above liberty of importing bar iron from British America to the port of London duty free to all the ports in North Britain where the consumpt is wholly of foreign iron bought for the far greatest part with bills of exchange and where never any iron was made.

Eodem die post meridiem.

The Dutch ratification of the staple contract.

33. The same day there was produced in the convention the counter part of the ratification of the staple contract on the part of the town of Campvere, dated the 31st of December 1748, wrote in the Dutch language, with a coppy thereof in the English language. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the same to be recorded in the books of the convention after dissolving of this convention.

34. The same day there was also produced to the convention a letter in the Dutch language, dated the thirty-first of December 1748,

with an authentick coppy thereof in the English language, dated the 31 December 1748, complaining that notwithstanding of the late contract enter'd into betwixt the royal burrows of Scotland and the town of Campvere and ratification thereof, all recorded in the books of the convention, several shipmasters have gone with staple goods to other ports than that of Campvere, and unload the same contrary to the true intent & meaning of the staple contract & ratifications thereof. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the annual committee to consider the same, and to doe therein as the staple contract and laws direct.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750. Letter from the magistrats of Camphire complaining of the transgressours of the staple referr'd to the annl. committee.

35. The same day the convention appoints their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterling of sallary; to Wm. Grant, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, five pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactories, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pounds sterling; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, dept. clerk, twenty pounds sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, thirty pounds sterling for sallary & writings; to John Johnstoun, burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary and four pounds sterl. of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk to the burrow aeque, sixty pounds Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pounds Scots; to the gardner of Heriot's hospital for flowers, twelve pounds Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pound Scots; to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pounds Scots of supply yearly dureing her life.

Agent to pay sallarys & gratuitys.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750.

Annl. committee appointed.

36. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Dumfreise, Inverness, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Dumferling, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Tain, Banf, Whithorn, North Berwick, Kirkudbright, Cullen, Sanquhar, Dingwall, Queensferry, Inverurie, Kirkwall, & Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondence to the several royal burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto application to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming & concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no caise have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July iajvij & and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be upon the sixth instant at ten a cloak in the forenoon, and declair that every member of this convention shall have priviledge to be present at

all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750. Annl. committee appointed.

37. The same day Mr Maitland, who is publishing a history of the city of Edinburgh, represented that he was willing to insert therein the history and progress of the several staple contracts and coppys of the several staple contracts and amplications thereof preceeding this date, and hoped the convention would at least indemnify him of the charge of printing the same. Which being considered by the convention, they recommend to the next convention to give Mr Maitland a reasonable gratification therefor.

Recommendation in favours of Mr Maitland.

38. The same day the convention recommend to their annual committee to promote as much as they can the linnen manufactorys, which is the staple of this part of the United Kingdom.

Annl. committee to promote the linning, &.

39. The same day the convention fyne & unlaw the burghs of Wigtown, Dumbarton, Rothesay, Nairn, Fforress, New Gallaway, Dornock, Fortrose, Inverary, Wick, & Campbeltoun in the sum of one hundred pounds Scots money each, for not sending up members to this convention, and appoint their agent to doe dilligence against the said burghs for payment thereof accordingly.

Absent burrows fyned.

40. The same day the convention dissolved this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Convention dissolved.

Follows a charter of thirty acres of Coupar Muir by the magistrats of Coupar in favours of John Thomson, mercht. in Coupar, dated the 28th June 1750, appointed to be recorded by ye 28 act of last convention.

. . . . . .

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750.

Followes the other charter of thirty-four acres of Coupar Muir granted by the magistrates of Coupar in favours of Dr George Bethune & his spouse.

. . . . . .

Followes the contract of few betwixt the town of Kirkcaldie & Thos. Geddes.

. . . . . .

Followes the contract of excambion betwixt Lord Sinclair and the town of Dysert.

. . . . . .

Follows the English translation of the last staple contract's ratification by the balliuw, burgermeesters, schepens, & councillors of the city of Campveer, appointed to be recorded by the 33d act of the last convention.

We, balliuw, burgermeesters, schepens, and councillors of the city of Campvere, to all who may see or hear these presents, greeting, make known—That whereas George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, and Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord conservator of the Scots priviledges in the United Netherlands, deputies from the royal burrows of Scotland, and Messrs Dirk Huybert Verelst, councillor of this city and deputy from this province in the council of state of the United Netherlands, Johan Borcel de Mauregnault, schepen & councillor, and Jacobus de Cliever, secretary, as our deputies, did upon the 7th of this month in the Hague make and conclude a contract of prolongation of the present subsisting staple contract, and that for the term of 21 years after the expiration of the said staple contract, and so commenceing the twenty-fifth of December one thousand seven hundred and sixty years, to which contract his serene highness the Prince of Orange and Nassauw, hereditary Statholder, as Marquis of this city and principall contracter, has graciously acceded; and to give proof of our sincerity, therefore it is that we agree, approve, and ratify, likeas we hereby agree, approve, and ratify the contract made by the forsaid

deputies of the royal burrows and our forsaid deputies upon the seventh of this moneth in the Hauge, promiseing in all truth and sincerity that we shall inviolably observe the same in all its points and articles, without doing any thing contrary thereto directly or indirectly in any manner whatsomever. In testimony whereof we have caused these presents to be signed by our secretary, and the great seal impress'd thereon. Done in Campveer, the 31st December 1748. Signed, Jacobus De Cliever.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1750.

(L.S.)

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

6 July 1750.

Archd. M'Aulay, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., Robt. Montgomry & James Ker; Air, Andrew Hunter.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1750. Sederunt.

The which day the committee elect Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Preses chosen.

The same day it was moved and agreed to that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Francis Grant by the preses of this meeting, and a coppy of a letter being read to the above effect, the committee approve of the same, and appoint their preses to send of the same; and of which letter the tenor follows:—

Letter of thanks to Mr Ffrancis Grant, merct.

Sr.,—By order of the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland I am authorized to give yow the hearty thanks of the whole state of burrows for the good services yow have done them in being so active (in concurrance with others who have the welfare of this corner of the country at heart) in procureing the act of parliamt. last session for encouraging our fisherys.

And in the name of the said annual committee I am furder authorized to beg the favour of yow (when your conveniency will permit) to give our complements and unfained thanks to all the honourable and worthy members and others who promoted a law which must prove so beneficial to Great Britain.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1750. Letter of thanks to Mr Ffrancis Grant, merct.

Referring yow as to other particulars to what the convention of burrows have done of the fifth current of which yow are acquainted by this post, I sign this in name and by appointment of the annual committee, and am, sr., your most humble servt., sign'd, Archd. M'Aulay.

Preses to write to Mr Robt. Dunwoodie & Mr Ffrancis Grant.

The same day the committee appoint their preses to write to Mr Robert Dunwoddie, merchant in London, and also to Mr Francis Grant, acquainting them with the resolutions of the convention of the fifth instant and to desire their complyance therewith, and to transmit to each of them a coppy of the act of the convention of that date relative to the out chambers and ye twenty-five pounds sterl. paid by Mr Francis Grant for the expence of the act & charter to follow thereon; which was done accordingly.

Agent's accompts for 1732 to be opened.

The same day George Irving, writer in Edr., represented that in the year 1732 his father was agent to the royal burrows & had paid by their order to the town of Dumbarton twenty pounds sterling, but that the town of Dumbarton alleadges the money was not paid into them and are demanding the same from him, and therefor prayed that the accompts for the year 1732 should be opened, where a recept for that sum would be found. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint the said year's accotts. to be opened at the sight of the commissioner for Edinbr., and if any recept for the said sum is found, to give it up on Mr Irving's recept therefor, and seal up the same again with the other voutchers; all which was done, the recept found, & the instructions reseal'd by the preses.

24 July 1750.

Sederunt.

Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, Robert Montgomry and Mr James Ker; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Elgin, Mr Patrick Duff; Whithorn, Mr John M'Gowan; Dysert, George Drummond; Air, Andrew Huntar; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Dingwall, John Dingwall; Inverurie, Walter Ferguson; Irving, Mr James Boyle.

EDINBURGH. 24 July 1750.

Agent to pay Mr Ffrancis Grant 25 lit. str.

The which day the preses laid before the committee two letters, one he had received from Mr Francis Grant of the 14th, and the other from Mr Robert Dunwiddie of the 17th of July current; which being read, and the committee being satisfyed from these letters that Mr Francis Grant has truely advanced the sum of twenty-five pounds sterling for the subscription of twenty-five thousand pounds for the burrows at London, they appoint their agent to repay to him the said sum of twenty-five pounds sterling, and also appoint their preses to write to him and Mr Dunwoddie the following answers to their letters, vizt. :—

To Mr Grant.

Letter to Mr Ffrancis Grant.

Sr.,—Since my last to yow, there was a meeting of the annual committee, when I laid before them yours of the 14th and one I received from Mr Robert Dunwiddie. They are fully satisfyed of your having paid the twenty-five pounds to secure a concern for the burrows to the extent of twenty-five thousand pound, and have ordered their agent to repay it yow; this I thought propper to acquaint yow of, and am, with great respect, sr., your most humble servt., sign'd, Archd. M'Aulay.

Follows the letter to Mr Dinwiddie.

Letter to Mr Dinwoodie.

Sr.,—I had yours of the 17th currt., which I communicated to the annual committee of the royal burrows; they thank yow for your willingness to serve the royal burrows in the particular affair of the chambers which they have committed to yow, and doubt not but that yow will use your endeavours to get these chambers freed from the necessity of lodging their stock in the Bank of England, or of being oblidged to use more nets than is necessary in shoald waters, which the committee think may be done by the by laws of the directors without applying to parliament for a rectification.

When the charter and by laws are made, I shall be oblidged to yow for a coppy of them, because many of our merchants lye off and do not incline to subscribe untill they see them. The committee are fully

EDINBURGH. 24 July 1750.

Letter to Mr Dinwoodie.

satisfyed from yours that Mr Grant has advanced the twenty-five pound sterl. to intitle the burrows to a concern for twenty-five thousand pounds, and have ordered their agent to repay it. I have only to add that I am, with great respect, sr., your most humble servt.,

Arch. M'Aulay, preses.

P.S.—When yow have anything to write to the committee of burrows yow may address it to the lord provost of Edr., who is always their preses.

5 September 1750.

Sederunt.

Edinbr., Robert Montgomry, dean of gild of Edinbr., preses; Air, Andrew Huntar; Dysert, George Drummond, Esqr.; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Cullen, Mr James Philp.

Robt. Montgomry, preses.

The which day the committee elected Robert Montgomry, present dean of gild of Edinbr., to be preses to this meeting.

Act appointing John Willison, ship carpanter, to repair to Dumbar anent a Dutch buss.

The same day the preses laid before the committee a letter sent to the lord provost of Edinbr. from the magistrats of Dumbar, acquainting him that a Dutch buss had come in to the port of Dumbar for provisions, and desireing a ship carpanter may be sent out to take her dimensions. Which being consider'd by the committee, they call'd for John Willison, shipbuilder at Leith, and desired him to goe to Dumbar & take the dimensions of the said buss, and appointed their agent to pay Mr Willison two guineas for his trouble and expence, and appoint their preses to write the following answer to the magistrats of Dumbar:—

Letter to ye magistrats of Dumbar.

Gentlemen,—The committee of the royal burrows have yours of the third currt. before them, and reckon themselves much oblidged to yow for the timely notise yow have given of the arrival of a Dutch bush in your port, the hint yow offer'd they think verry propper, and have askt the favour of the bearer, Mr John Willison, a master builder here, to

repair to your place and make the survey of the vessell and her apparell, in order to report it to the committee, in which I dare say he will have your countenance & assistance.—I am respectfully, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

EDINBURGH. 5 September 1750.

Letter to ye magistrats of Dumbar.

Edr., 5th Septr. 1750. Robert Montgomerie, preses.

15 January 1751.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., Robert Montgomry and Adam Drummond; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Baillie; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Inverury, Walter Ferguson.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee elected George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of the city of Edinbr., to be their preses.

Geo. Drummond, preses.

The same day the committee having had laid before them a memorial from the town of Glasgow suggesting some clauses that might be propper to be inserted in the bill for the more easy destribution of bankrupts' effects and other matters for the intrest of the trading part of this kingdom, and it being represented that the lord advocat who was desired to draw a bill for these matters was in a few days to set out for London, the committee appointed the lord provost, Dean of Gild Stewart, and the agent for the burrows to wait of the lord advocat this day and consult him, inform and lay before him the said memorial, in order from thence and other materials already in his hand to frame a bill for the above purposes, and also to advise with his lordship whether it might not be propper to introduce the clauses formerly concerted anent the unfree trade as a part of this bill; and also to put his lordship in mind that incase the towns of Bristol, Liverpool, and other tradeing towns in England should apply for the liberty of importing bar iron from America upon the plan that the same has been granted to the city of London, that his lordship should endeavour to obtain the same priviledge for the ports belonging to the tradeing towns in Scotland; and appoint the agent to give his lordship a fee of twenty guineas, and a guinea to his first clerk and half a guinea to his second, and appoint the gentle-

Memorial anent ye bankrupt bill, & the lord advocat to be consulted.

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1751.

men who are to wait of the advocat to report to the next meeting of the committee what steps his lordship has already taken for preparing a bill of so much importance to this part of the trading kingdom.

Act anent the jurisdiction of the gild court of Stirling.

The same day the committee having heard a petition from the burgh of Stirling, representing that an attempt had been made to incroach upon the priviledges of the dean of gild court by bringing a proces directly before the shirriff concerning a question of neighbourhead relative to some houses lying within the royalty, and seting furth that they had raised a declarator of their priviledges as well as a suspension of the shirriff's decree in the particular case by him decided, and therefor praying that the committee would appoint their agent of the burrows to give his concurrance both in the suspension and declarator. Which being considered by the committee, they were of oppinion that it was a matter of general importance to the burrows to prevent all incroachments on the jurisdiction of the dean of gild courts secured by publick law, and that the departing from the usual methods of determineing questions of neighbourhead upon the report of an inquest regularly authorized, and in place thereof resorting to the single oppinion of judges not so much versant in these matters as the dean of gild courts, would be attended with great detriment to the leidges, doe therefor appoint the agent of the burrows to give his concurrance in both processes abovementioned, and also recommend to the next convention to consider what further countenance and aid should be given to the burgh of Stirling in that matter.

Letter of thanks to Rob. Dunwoodie.

The same day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr Robert Dunwoodie at London, acquainting him that he had laid some queries before the directors of the herring company at London in relation to the out chambers, their paying in the sums subscrived for by them into the Bank of England, and had received their answer, enter'd into their minuts of proceeding,—That the out chambers might pay in their money into the bank, and that they should be at liberty to redraw the same in a day or two thereafter.

Which being read, the committee appoint their preses to return their thanks to Mr Dunwiddie for his good services in that matter, and to acquaint him that the Edinbr. chamber being now fully settled, they had chosen a committee who will have the direction and manadgment of that affair in time comeing; and which the preses wrote accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1751.

Letter of thanks to Rob. Dunwoodie.

8 March 1751.

Edinbr., James Stewart, dean of gild, preses, Adam Drummond, conveener; Air, Andrew Huntar; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Dingwall, John Dingwall.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee having heard a petition from the inhabitants of Stromness craving the communication of trade, they allow Mr David Anderson, writer, & agent for the town of Kirkwall, to see and answer the same.

Petn. from the inhabitants of Stromness.

The same day Mr Francis Grant, Mr John Stephen, & Mr Ebenezer M'Culloch, as being deputed by the merchants in Edinbr., represented that by the petition now under the consideration of parliament for restraining the excessive use of spirituous liquors, they were apprehensive that an additional duty might be laid on the distillerys in Scotland, and of withdrawing the bounty upon the exportation of corn, both or either of which would be of great prejudice to this part of the United Kingdom. Which being considered by the committee, they were of oppinion that if any additional duty should take place it must necessarly be destructive to the whole distelliries in Scotland and be hurtfull to the trade of it, be a considerable encouragment to the smuglers of French brandys, and greatly lessen the revenues of excise; and therefor they appoint their preses to write to all the royal burrows in Scotland acquainting them of this their oppinion and resolution, and to desire them to write to their representatives in parliament to use their intrest to oppose the laying of any new or additional duty on the distillerys of Scotland, and also appoint their preses to write to the lord advocat, as assessor for the burrows, and to the member for the

Act appointing circular letters to the haill r. burrows anent the intended duty on spirituous liquors.

EDINBURGH. 8 March 1751.

city of Edinbr. desireing them to have a watchfull eye as to the said bill and oppose the laying any additional duty on the distillerys of this part of the kingdom wt. all their power & intrest; all which was done accordingly.

17 May 1751.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, James Stewart, D.G.; Glasgow, Provost Murdoch; Air, Andrew Hunter; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Dingwall, Mr John M'Gowan; Pittenweem, John Mortoun.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter directed to him from Mr George Chalmers now at London, concerning the bill brought into the House of Commons for the more easy and equitable destribution of bankrupts' effects. Which being read, the committee appoint their preses to write to the Lord Dupplin and Mr Sollicitor Murray and the haill members from Scotland to use their intrest to thorow the bill into a law, and approve of the draught of a letter for that purpose, of which the tenor follows:—

Letter to ye haill Scots members anent the insolvent debrs. bill.

Sr.,—The general convention of the royal burrows of Scotland having taken into their consideration the many inconveniencys that arises to trade from the difficulty there is, as the laws now stand, in bringing in the effects of bankrupts in the mercantile way, and in oblidging their creditors to come into such measures as may bring in the funds for satisfying their debts in the most speedy & equitable manner and with the smallest expence, having by the advice & assistance of the ablest lawiers of our country prepared a bill for that purpose, which is now in the House, in which they have endeavoured to guard all they can against the inconveniencys which the bringing in of the estates of bankrupts in England, as the law stands there, is attended with, and the merchants here and at Glasgow being of oppinion that its being made the law of this country will be beneficial to the commerce and trade of Scotland, I have received the commands of the annual

committee of the burrows to pray for your good offices to your country in carrying this bill, with such amendments to it as may thought propper, thorough the House.—I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, sr., your most humble servant,

EDINBURGH. 17 May 1751.

Edinr., 17th May 1751. sign'd, Geo. Drummond, preses.

The same day the committee appoint their preses to write to Mr George Chalmers, thanking him for his care & dilligence in promoteing the bill abovementioned, and to return him the following answer, and appoint their agent to dispatch the haill letters by express, that no time may be lost.

Letter to Mr Geo. Chalmers at Londn.

Sr.,—I have received your favour of the 11th, which I have laid before the annual committee, to whom I have reported your great care and diligence in attending the members and lawyers on the subject of bankrupt bill, and your good service, part of which I was witnes to, in forwarding the same, and I have received their commands to return yow their hearty thanks therefor, and at the same time to assure yow wee will report it faithfully to the general convention at their next meeting. I am likewise to acquaint yow that by this night's express I write in their name to my Lord Duplin, Mr Sollicitor Murray, and to all our own members to favour their country with their good offices for carrying our bill thorough the House. I inclose yow a coppy of our letter, and am faithfully, sr., your most obedient humble servant,

Edr., 17th May 1751. G. Drummond, preses.

To Mr George Chalmers, writer to the signet, now at London.

General Convention *held at* Edinburgh.

2 July 1751.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1751. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Stewart & James Ker; Perth, John Robertson, provost; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman, provost; Aberdeen, Alexr. Living-

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1751. Sederunt.

stoun, provost; Stirling, William Chrystie, provost; Linlithgow, John Bucknay, provost; St Andrews, Andrew Williamson, d. gild; Glasgow, John Murdoch, provost; Air, Thomas Garvane, provost; Hadingtown, Andrew Dickson, provt.; Dysert, Robt. Henderson, baillie; Kirkaldie, John Currie, provost; Montrose, David Doig, provost; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie, adv., provost; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun, baillie; Dumfreise, John Graham, provost; Inverness, Robt. Rose, baillie; Bruntisland, Thomas Chrystie, baillie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham, advt., prov.; Kinghorn, Robt. Hamilton, late provt.; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, the Honble. Pat. Boyle, Lo. Showalton; Jedburgh, John Ainslie, baillie; Kirkudbright, John Freeland, provt.; Wigtoun, Alexr. Hooks, baillie; Pittenweem, George Fortune, shipmr., baill.; Dumfermling, John Wilson, baillie; Anstruther Wester, George Robb; Selkirk, Andrew Scott, baillie; Ranfrew, William Somervel, provt.; Dumbar, Robert Fall, baillie; Lanerk, Christopher Bannatyne, baillie; Aberbrothock, John Gairdner, provt.; Elgine, Patrick Duff, wryr. to ye signet; Peebles, John Alexander, provost; Craill, John Oliphant, treasr.; Tain, David Ross, yor. of Inverchasly; Culross, James Johnstoun; Banf, Alexander Innes, provt.; Forress, Alexr. Brodie, Lord Lyon, provt.; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, John Thomson, baillie; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell, baillie; Annan, Bryce Blair, provost; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson, councillor; Sanquhar, James Orr, baillie; Dornock, Robt. Gray of Ardins; Queensferry, Robert Dick, baillie; Kintoir, Robert Bruce, baillie; Inverury, Andrew Burnet, writer to ye signet; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant, merct.; Inverbervie, John Brodie, treasr.; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (twelve burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he being formerly qualifyed to his Majesty King George the Second in the same capacity as the law directs.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1751.

2d. art. of the missive read.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Committee to revise the commissions.

3. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Hadingtown, Dysert, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, and Inverkeithing as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to this convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriving the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Alexander Livingstoun, commissioner for Aberdeen; Robert Ferguson, assessor for Dumfreise; and Andrew Buckney, assessor for Linlithgow.

Commissions approven.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard and considered the commissions for the burghs of St Andrews, Anstruther Easter, Kinghorn, Brechin, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Dumfermling, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Peebles, Craill, Tayn, Banf, North Berwick, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Queensferry, Kintore, Kirkwall, Inverbervie, and Stranraer were of oppinion that the whole commissions should be sustain'd. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscribing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Francis Grant for Kirkwall, David Ross for Tain, John Thomson for Lauder, James Winter for Jedburgh, Archibald Wightman, assessor for Dysert, George Rob for Anstruther Wester, Andrew Williamson for St Andrews, John Oliphant for Craill, and Peter Douglas, assessor for St Andrews.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1751. The trustees' report & Mr Whitfoord's accott. presented.

5. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for fisherys and manufactures, a coppy of the report made by the saids commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders for the said year preceeding Christmas last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusal of the members.

39th act, 1749, read.

6. The same day the thirty-ninth act of the convention, iajvij & and fourty-nine, anent giveing of money or encreasing the missive dues upon the first motion, was presented to the preses and publickly read in the convention according to appointment.

Commissions approven.

7. The same day there was a commission given in for the burgh of Kirkaldie nameing John Currie, their provost, to be their commissioner, and Robert Whyte, their late provost, to be his assessor, and an other commission from the burgh of Culross nameing James Johnstoun, one of the present baillies, to be their commissioner, and a third commission from the burgh of Irving nameing the Honble. Patrick Boyle of Shualtoun, one of the senators of the Colledge of Justice, as assessor, and John Glasgow, provost of the said burgh, as commissioner; which three commissions being read, the convention approve thereof.

Annl. missive committed.

8. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions, to whom they add the burghs of Air, Kirkaldie, Renfrew, & Dumbar.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

9. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a commission from the town of Inverness to John Baillie, writer to the signet, appointing Baillie Robert Ross their commissioner, and the said John Baillie their assessor, and an other commission from the burgh of

Inverury appointing Andrew Burnet, writer to the signet, their commissioner; which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said commissions.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1751. Commissions approven.

10. The same day there was presented to the convention a charter by the town of Coupar in favours of Archibald Hope of Rankeillor, and an other charter in favours of Katharin M'Gill in order to be approven of by the convention. Which being considered, the convention remit the same to the burghs of Dumfermline & Stranraer, & they to report.

Two charters by Coupar presented.

11. The convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, doe observe that the committee have been at great pains in manadging the affairs of the burrows since the last convention, and therefor they appoint their preses to return the committee the thanks of the convention, which was done accordingly, and the convention approve of the whole proceedings of the said committee.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

12. The same day there was a petition presented from the magistrats and town council of the burgh of Stirling, representing that an attempt had been made to encroach upon the priviledges of the dean of gild court by bringing a proces directly before the shirriff concerning a question of neighbourhead relative to some houses lying within the royalty, & setting forth that they had raised a declarator of their priviledges as well as a suspension of the shirriff's decreet in that case by him decided, and praying that the committee would appoint the agent to concurr in both processes, and the annual committee had appointed their agent to concurr accordingly, and they also recommended to this convention to consider what furder was to be done. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the procedure of the committee, and of new appoint their agent to concurr in the two processes abovementioned, and furder doe recommend to the annual committee to be chosen to give the petitioners all countenance possible in this affair which so much concerns the state of burrows.

Agent to concurr wt. Stirling agt. the shirriff of Stirling.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1751.

Agent's accompts presented.

13. The same day the agent presented his accompts, which were ordered to lye upon the table.

3 July 1751.

Commission for Sanquhar approven.

14. The which day there was presented in the convention a commission from the burgh of Sanquhar to James Orr, one of the present baillies, appointing him their commissioner, and James Crighton, eldest son to John Crighton, provost of Sanquhar, to be his assessor. Which being read, the convention approve of the same.

Two charters by Coupar ratified.

15. The same day having heard the report of the burghs of Dumfermling and Stranraer seting furth that they had considered the charter of the town of Coupar in favours of Archibald Hope of Rankeillor, and an other charter in favours of Mrs Katharin M'Gill, and were of oppinion that they were in all respects regular and merited the approbation of the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they ratify & approve of the said charters and appoint them to be recorded immediatly after the acts of this convention.

Petn. for Prestonpans and a report as to it & Cockeny & Lymekilns referr'd to ye annl. committee.

16. The same day having heard a petition of the inhabitants of the town of Prestonpans seting furth the great decay of trade in that place from the year 1716 and downwards, insomuch that in the year 1743 the convention restricted their proportion in the tax roll which had been five pence to three pence sterl., but that at present they have no forreign trade or so much as a single ship belonging to the town, which made them apprehend that the contract betwixt this burrow and the royal burrows behoved to determine, & therefor praying that the convention to accept of a renunciation of all freedom of trade and prohibit their agent to make any demands upon the account of trade in time comeing, or at least discharge any prosecution for arrears in respect there has not been any forreign trade during the time for which these arrears are demanded, and in order to revive trade again, to grant the benefit of communication in time coming upon being rated at one shilling Scots yearly in the tax roll, untill by an increase of trade they should be

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751.

Petn. for Prestonpans and a report as to it & Cockeny & Lymekilns referr'd to ye annl. committee.

enabled to pay more; and having heard the agent's report as to the decayed state of Prestounpans, Cockeny, and Limekilns, they remit the same to their annual committee, wt. conventional powers to doe therein as they shall see cause, particularly as to Prestonpan's, to accept what to them shall appear reasonable for bygone arears, and for the future to agree to such eases as shall appear equal and just, or to enter into a new contract for such quota of the tax roll as they shall judge suitable to the circumstance of the town, and to report to the next convention.

Heads of the genl. missive continued.

17. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the present annual missive reported that they having considered the several heads of the missive were of oppinion that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth, twelveth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteen articles of the missive should be continued; and as to the eight article, were of oppinion that the same should stand as it is down to the words, and by the ninth act of the last convention, which words and all that follows in that article should be left out; and as to the tenth article, it should run thus—that the magistrats of each burrow cause put the act of parliament anent the uniformity to be observed in the standart of the reel of worsted yarn (which must be ten quarters long) to due execution, and that the same uniformity be observed in the standart of the reel of linnen yarn (which must be ten quarters long), and that no person or persons shall sell or expose to sale in Scotland, and that the rest of the article should stand as it is; as to the eleventh article, they were of oppinion it should run thus—that the magistrats of each royal burrow cause the act of parliament be put to due execution with respect to the measure to be observed in the retaill of lintseed, being the Linlithgow barley measure straiked, and that all such measures to be used in time coming shall be first stamped & marked by the dean of gild of some royal burrow with the usual mark of such burrow and with these words, Linlithgow barley measure, and in place of the words Linlithgow measure in the sixth line there should be insert Linlithgow barley measure straiked, and that the rest of the article should stand as it is; and as to the thirteenth article, they

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751. Heads of the genl. missive continued.

were of oppinion that the words in the first line, complaint has been made to the convention, should be left out, and it should run thus—that whereas several frauds had been committed, & that the rest of the article should stand as it is in the present missive; and as to the seventeenth and eighteen articles, the committee were not inclinable to give their oppinion therein, but remit the same to the consideration of the convention; that with respect to the eight article abovementioned, the committee considering the great trouble and expence Mr George Chalmers, writer to the signet, has been at in going to London as sollicitor to obtain a law for the more effectual distribution of bankrupts' effects, &ca., were of oppinion the agent should be ordered to pay to him the sum of thirty-six pounds three shillings and two pence sterling debursed by him to lawiers and others for writings, conform to a particular accompt, and in regaurd that Mr Chalmers was for near four moneths at London on that important service, and was likeways at great trouble in prepareing propper materials for framing the said bill, they were therefor of opinion that the agent should be ordered to pay him two hundred guineas for that trouble and in full of his expences during his residence at London, and in going to and returning therefrom; and furder, in regaurd of the great trouble that Mr James Ferguson, advocat, was at in preparing the first draught of the said bill, they were of oppinion that the agent should be ordered to wait upon him and give him twenty-five guineas and five guineas to his clerks; and in respect that Mr John Crawfoord, sollicitor at London, was verry assisting, and debursed money in the said affair, that the convention should recommend it to the annual committee to order his payment when he exhibits his accompt as they shall see cause; and the committee were furder of oppinion that the convention should continue the recommendation to the lord advocat, and earnestly to intreat of his lordship that he would use his outmost endeavours to procure the said bill past into a law, and that they should appoint their annual committee to wait upon his grace the Duke of Argyle, how soon he arrives at this country, and humbly beg of his grace to continue his good offices in the said matter which is of soe

Agent to pay Mr George Chalmers £36, 3s. 2d. str.

& 200 guineas.

Agent to give Mr Jas. Ferguson 25 guineas, & 5 guineas to his clerks.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751.

Heads of the genl. missive continued.

great importance to the state of burrows; and furder, they were of oppinion that their preses should wait of the lord president and lords of session, dean of faculty, and keeper of the signet, and deliver to each of them a coppy of the said bill, to the end they might make such observations thereon as should occur to them ; and lastly, they were of oppinion that it should be recommended to the annual committee to use all propper ways and means after riseing of the convention to promote the passing of the said act. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint the several articles of the missive abovementioned as amended to continue as heads of the next general missive, and the agent to issue out the sums mentioned in the report and what furder sums shall be appointed by the annual committee to be paid to Mr John Crawfurd, sollicitor at London, when his accompts are produced and examined.

Petition for Stromness & ansrs. for Kirkwall committed.

18. The same day the convention having heard the petition of Alexander Graham and other inhabitants in Stromness, seting furth that the village of Stromness had unwarrily a good time ago been drawn in to pay a part of the publick burdens chargable upon the burgh of Kirkwall, altho Stromness lyes at the distance of about twelve miles therefrom, that thereafter having applyed for the communication of trade, the convention 1748 approved of a report of their committee to the effect that the inhabitants of Stromness should be allowed the communication of trade upon, first, their paying up bygones to Kirkwall at the rate of £204, 16 shilling Scots from the year 1742, being the rate they payed that year, and secondly, that they should releive the town of Kirkwall of the just and equal third part of what that town then was or should from year to year be stented in both for cess and missive dues, and that the inhabitants of Stromness should become bound incase of the increase of their trade and decrease of the inhabitants of Kirkwall to pay such furder proportion of cess and missive dues as any general convention of the royal burrows should thereafter determine, with certification that incase the inhabitants of Stromness did not comply with these terms the agent was appointed to concurr with Kirkwall in

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751. Petition for Stromness & ansrs. for Kirkwall committed.

the proces then depending against the inhabitants of Stromness or any other proces that should be judged necessary, and representing that these terms appeared hard but that Stromness was willing to accept of the communication of trade independant of the town of Kirkwall, and to be subjected in all time comeing to pay two shillings of the hundred pound of the general tax roll, and praying to be releived as to bygones, the town of Kirkwall having actually recovered by lawsuits the full values of the foreign goods traffick'd in from the prinle. inhabitants for these years bygone; and the convention having heard answers for the magistrats and council of Kirkwall and replys for the inhabitants of Stromness, they approve of what was formerly done by the convention 1748, with this variation, that whatever is charged on Kirkwall or Stromness shall be subject to alterations conform to what shall appear to the wisdom of future conventions to be necessary according as the trade and circumstances of these places shall become better or worse, and remit to the annual committee with conventional powers to consider of some propper expedient to put an end to the lawsuit betwixt Kirkwall and Stromness, and for attaining this good end they hereby impower their committee to consider what abatements as to bygones should be made to Stromness after considering what has already been recover'd from the inhabitants of Stromness by the burgh of Kirkwall, and if the committee shall judge it propper to make any abatement for obtaining peace, that the same should be charged on the annual missive.

Mr James Ferguson refused to accept of the 25 guineas offer'd him, & to be made burges of each r. burrow.

19. The same day the agent reported that he had waited of Mr James Ferguson of Pitfour, advocat, and offer'd him the twenty-five guineas appointed by the convention as a gratification for his trouble in preparing the bankrupt bill, but that Mr Ferguson had refused to accept of any thing, saying he thought it every man's duty to contribut all in his power for promoteing a measure so beneficial to the publick. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their preses to wait of Mr Ferguson and signify the sense the convention have of his generous disposition to promote a measure which the burrows apprehend, if passed

into a law, would be attended with a general benefit to this country, and as a furder testimony of respect the convention appoint each burrow to present Mr Ferguson with the freedom of their burgh.

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20. The same day the commissioner for North Berwick represented that it was the undoubted duty of the royal burrows to cause erect and keep in repair publick prisons, both for secureing criminals and such as are confined for debt; that of late the course of justice had been obstructed upon a variety of different occasions by criminals breaking loose from unsecure prison houses, and some complaints on that head had been transmitted to him in an other capacity; that the mentaining propper prisons was one of the reasons for the priviledges granted to the burrows, and negligence on that head might subject the careless burrow to an action for damnadges, or even a criminal indictment, and therefor it was hoped some measure might be fallen upon to prevent complaints of that nature for the future. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their preses in their name immediatly after the riseing of the convention to transmit a letter to all the royal burrows of Scotland, recommending it to them in the warmest manner to cause erect publick prisons where they are awanting, or compleatly repair those that are already built, as a matter not only of publick pollicy, but a duty incumbent upon the burrows by express law, and recommends to the members of the convention now present to take care that their respective burrows doe their duty in that matter with all convenient dispatch.

Letter to be wrote to the r. burrows to put their prisons in good repair.

21. The same day the convention appoint the following committee to audit the agent's accompts, vizt.:—the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Northberwick, Air, Queensferry, Inverness, Annan, and Kirkudbright, and five to be a quorum, whereof Edinburgh to be one, and they to report to the convention.

Committee on theagent's accompts.

22. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a commission to the burgh of Forress to Alexander Brodie, Esqr.,

Commission for Forress approven.

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Lord Lyon, appointing him their commissioner. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof.

Mr Francis Grant to repay to ye agent £25 sterl.

23. The same day Mr Francis Grant, commissioner for the burgh of Kirkwall, reported that at subscriving £25,000 to the white herring fishery in name of the royal burrows twenty-five pounds sterling was paid in by him as their share of expeding the charters, that thereafter the agent repaid him that sum, which it seems has since been put into the hands of Mr Belshier and placed to Mr Grant's credit and is therefor now at the disposal of the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint that money to be paid into their agent.

Post meridiem.

Bruntisland's & Dornock's commissions approven.

24. The same day there was presented to the convention a commission from the burgh of Bruntisland to Thomas Christie, shipmaster, one of the present baillies, appointing him to be their commissioner, and John Haxtoun, shipmaster in the said burgh, to be his assessor, as also a commission from the burgh of Dornock to Robert Gray of Ardines, burges and gildbrother of that burgh, appointing him their commissioner, and the Honble. Livet.-General James Sinclair of Rossland, burges and gildbrother of the said burgh, to be his assessor. Which being read, the convention approve of the said commissions.

Report of the agent's accompt of unfree trade approven.

25. The same day the committee appointed to audit the agent's accompts reported that they having considered the accompt of his intromissions with the cess and missive dues of the burghs of barrony & regality, found that he charges himself with two thousand five hundred and twelve pound ten shilling $7\frac{1}{12}$d. Scots as the arrears of the burghs of barrony and regality at July 1749, and with the year's cess and missive dues chargable on the said burghs at July 1750 being two thousand three hundred and fifty-two pound three shilling nine pennies Scots, amounting the sd. sums to four thousand eight hundred & sixty-four pound fourteen shilling $4\frac{1}{12}$d. Scots; and that his discharge,

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751.

Report of the agent's accompt of unfree trade approven.

inclusive of three thousand two hundred & twenty pound thirteen shilling eight pennies of arrears due by the said burghs at July 1750, amounts to five thousand three hundred and fifty-one pound seventeen shilling $6\frac{6}{12}$d. Scots, whereby there is a ballance due to the agent on this accompt of four hundred eighty-seven pound three shilling $2\frac{5}{12}$d. Scots money, which sum he has taken credit for in this year's accompt of missive dues; and the committee fand his discharge sufficiently instructed, the instructions being sealled up by the preses and left in the clerk's hand. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report, and of which accott. the tenor follows.

. . . . . .

[26. Agent's accott. of missive dues approven.]

Agent to pay Tain £21 when call'd for.

27. The same day the convention having considered that the burgh of Tayne had not called for the twenty guineas allowed by an act of the last convention to enable them to defend themselves in certain processes with a neighbouring heritor, they impower the agent to pay that sum to the burgh of Tain if call'd for, incase the submission betwixt that heritor and the burgh does not take effect.

Agent to take credit for @ rent of 200 guineas when pd. to Mr George Chalmers.

28. The same day the convention considering that the agent is appointed to issue two hundred guineas to Mr George Chalmers, wryter to the signet, for his trouble, loss of time, and expences in solliciting the bankrupt bill, and that the agent has not funds in his hands, doe therefor allow him upon advanceing that sum to take credit for the same and for annual rent from the date of such advance.

[29. List of missive dues in arrear. Horning for payt. yrof.]

The preses to write to ye burrows who export staple goods to observe the staple contract wt. Campvere.

30. The same day there was given in to the convention a representation by the conservator of the Scots priviledges at Campvere & his Majesty's resident for Scots affairs in the Netherlands, representing that notwithstanding the solemn contract subsisting betwixt the convention and the magistrats of Campvere, whereby all the staple goods of Scotland exported to the Netherlands should be carryed to the staple

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751. The preses to write to ye burrows who export staple goods to observe the staple contract wt. Campvere.

port at Campvere, yet there were many just complaints of considerable quantitys of these goods being carryed to Rotterdam and other ports in violation of the staple contract, and therefor it was hoped the convention would take some vigorous measure to enforce the observance of that contract, and prevent the necessity of doing dilligence against delinquents who possibly are unacquaint with the particular species of staple goods and the penaltys annexed to the breach of that contract. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the preses immediatly after riseing of the convention to transmit to the burrows dealing in staple goods a letter in name of the convention, bearing that the convention of royal burrows is informed that their staple contract has not been duely observed wt. the town of Campvere, staple goods being frequently carryed to other ports in the provinces than to the staple port of Camphere ; that this violation having been overlookt for several years, it has now become so flagrant that they have appointed their preses to acquaint them of the risque such goods run when carryed to any other port, perhaps yow may be ignorant that the penalty is no less than confiscation of the whole goods or the value of them, was this sufficiently adverted to, and were yow sensible of the advantage to your selves by the immunitys and priviledges yow enjoy by the contract, it is hoped yow would of choise without any compulsitor order your goods to be carryed there ; I am desired likeways to inform yow that the staple contract was lately prolonged, in which his serene highness the Prince Stadtholder is a party contracter, and the convention strictly bound that all staple goods exported to the Low Countrys shall be delivered at Campvere, and that his highness is to appoint persons at the several ports to which the Scots goods are carryed to give him or the magistrats of Campvere exact information of the transgressors; besides, the convention are resolved to take all the effectual methods to discover such as break this contract soe that it will be next to impossible to escape with impunity, and if any transgressors are discovered after this information they are firmly resolved to prosecut the offenders as far as the acts of parliament and burrows made in that behalf will goe, and therefor it is expected in

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time coming that yow will strictly comply with the staple contract (coppys of which have been transmitted to your burrow) with respect to all the staple goods therein contain'd, except such goods whose exportation is by publict law been prohibited since the original date of the staple contract.

Tax roll continued till July 1752.

31. The same day the convention considering the last article of the missive, upon which a motion was made to open the tax roll, and a question being put upon that head, it carryed by a verry great majority to continue the tax roll as it now stands untill July iajvij & and fifty-two, so that the tax roll falls to be considered by the next general convention.

Agent to pay sallarys and gratuities.

32. The same day the convention considering the present establishment unanimously approve thereof, and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt. :—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, principal clerks, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterling of sallary; to William Grant, Esquire, his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, five pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pounds sterling; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, deput clerk, twenty pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, thirty pounds sterling for sallary & writings; to John Johnstoun, burrow officer, twenty pounds sterling of sallary, & four pounds sterling of gratuity for his extraordinar trouble; to the clerk to the burrow aeque, sixty pound Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pounds Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pounds Scots; to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pounds Scots yearly of supply dureing her life.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1751. Committee to viset the burgh of Nairne.

33. The same day the convention having heard a memorial from the burgh of Nairn, seting furth the decayed state of the town and the distress they are put to by a proces at the instance of the heirs of Mr George Irving, late agent to the royal burrows, for certain alleadged arrears of missive dues a great many years back, and the difficulties they are put to as those in the administration of the town when the arrears were said to be incurred are all dead. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the burghs of Inverness, Forress, and Elgine to enquire into the state of the burrow, and the facts set forth in the memorial, and to report to the annual committee, & they to report their oppinion thereanent to the next convention.

Mr Wm. Maitland, his history of Edr. referred to next convention.

34. The same day it was represented that Mr William Maitland, who had imployed many years in writing the history and antiquitys of the city of Edinburgh, had applyed to the last convention for such gratification as they should think propper to be made to enable him to publish that work, in which he intended to insert the staple contract and such discoverys as he had made relative to the priviledges of the ancient state of burrows, but as that affair had come in about the riseing of the last convention it was remitted to this convention. Which being considered, the convention agree to give their oppinion in that affair at their next meeting.

4 July 1751.

Recommendation in favours of Mr Wm. Maitland.

35. The which day the convention considering their minut of yesterday relative to Mr William Maitland's history of Edinbr., and that it is not yet published, they recommend it to the next convention, betwixt and which it is probable the work will be published, to indemnify Mr Maitland of the charge of printing the history and progress of the several staple contracts and coppys of the contracts themselves and amplifications thereof inserted in that work.

36. The same day it was represented by the burgh of Selkirk that by an act of the shirriff, justices of the peace, commissioners of supply,

free holders and heritors of the shire of Selkirk met in May last, certain regulations were laid down for the mentainance of the poor, burdening the burgh not only with the trouble of enlisting but also provideing for the mentaining and employing all the poor in the town as if that was to be done without any releif from the landward heritors, as also to build and keep in repair correction houses on the town's expence for the use of the whole shire, intimating that by certain old acts of parliament, if that was not done, the mentinance of all the poor in the shire would come upon the burgh; and praying the advice of the convention as the town was not in a condition to comply with the requisites of the abovementioned act of the county. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the consideration of their annual committee, and recommend it in the meantime to the burgh of Selkirk as far as it is in their power to comply wt. the act as the most likely method to prevent lawsuits and to bring about a reasonable schem for the mentinance of the poor without overburdening the burgh of Selkirk, and recommends it to the annual committee after considering the laws and proclamations for the mentinance of the poor to give Selkirk their best advice.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1751.

Representation for Selkirk referr'd to the annl. committee.

37. The same day the state and condition of the town of Jedburgh being reported to the convention, they continue the same as a head of the missive soe as to be taken under the consideration of the next annual convention.

Jedburgh's report a head of the missive.

38. The same day George Innes, deputy receiver of the land tax, gave in a list of the burrows who had not payed up their cess for the year 1749, wt. the arrears owing by them, representing that it was expected by the general receiver that the convention would order them to be wrote to. Which being considered by the convention, they appointed their preses to recommend it to the commissioners of the burrows present to take care that the cess in arrear due be paid into the general receiver to prevent furder complaints on that head, & the preses recommended it to them accordingly.

Arrears of cess presented by the deputy receiver.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1751.

Remit to the annl. committee anent the importation of bar iron.

39. The same day the convention renew the remit to the annual committee, & recommend it to them when they shall judge propper to petition the honble. the House of Commons for extending the liberty of importing bar iron from British America to the port of London duty free to all the ports of North Britain where the consumpt is wholly of forreign iron bought with money or bills of exchange, conform to the 32d act of the last general convention.

Absent burghs fyned.

40. The same day the convention fyne and unlaw the burghs of Dumbarton, Rothesay, Fortrose, Newgallaway, Inverary, Wick, and Campbeltoun in the sum of one hundred pounds Scots each for not sending up members to this convention, and ordains letters of horning and all other dilligence to be raised at the agent's instance against the present magistrats of the said burrows for payment of their said fines, and appoint the agent to report his dilligence herein to the next convention.

Annual committee with their usual powers.

41. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Wigtoun, Dumferling, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Tain, Banf, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Dornock, Queensferry, Inverury, Kirkwall, and Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and the due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such cases as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder the annual committee are hereby directed & impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1751.

Annual committee with their usual powers.

parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several royall burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto application to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notice of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no caise have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they shall have speciall authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four years; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be upon the fifth instant at twelve of the cloak in the forenoon in the councill chamber, and declair that every member of this convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

Convention dissolved.

42. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Follows the charters granted by the town of Coupar in favours of Archibald Hope of Rankillor, Esquire, and Mrs Katharin M'Gill, appointed to be recorded by the 15th act of the foregoing convention.

. . . . . .

Edinburgh. 5 July 1751.

Meetings of Annual Committee *held at* Edinburgh.

5 July 1751.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of the city of Edinbr.; Edinburgh, James Stewart; Glasgow, John Murdoch; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Dumfreise, John Graham; Dysert, Archd. Wightman; Inverury, Andrew Burnet.

The which day the committee elected George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

The same day the committee having heard the several remits of the last general convention read in their presence, they remit to the lord advocat, commissioner for the burgh of North Berwick, to draw the form of a letter to be sent to the whole royal burrows anent puting their prisons in such repair as prisoners may not escape furth of them, & appoint the preses to dispatch the letters accordingly.

The same day the committee delay'd the consideration of the petitions for the inhabitants of Stromness & for the burgh of Prestoun-pans, in regaurd the partys did not attend this meeting.

14 October 1751.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., James Stewart, and James Ker; Andrew Burnet.

The which day there was presented to the annual committee a petition for Robert Hogg, merchant in Campvere, craveing to be admitted a factor at the staple port of Campvere. Which being considered by the committee, and they being sufficiently informed of and satisfyed with the fitness and sufficiency of the said Robert Hogg for dischargeing that office, and Mr Thomas Douglas & Mr Thomas Chrystie, junr., merchants in Montrose, being offered as cautioners for the

EDINBURGH. 14 October 1751.

said Robert Hogg, his dutifull behaviour in the said office, therefor the committee did and hereby doe approve of the said cautioners, and by virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention have given and granted and by these presents give and grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said Robert Hogg to be a factor at the staple port of Campvere upon the conditions and provisions aftermentioned, vizt.:—That the said office shall endure dureing the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said Robert Hogg shall behave himself honestly and dutifully in the said office, and shall make just and thankfull compt, reckoning, and payment of whatsoever goods, gear, and sums of money he shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with, pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor or that he shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows; that he shall obey all and whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general or particular conventions; and that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with, and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be whenever he shall happen to be required to that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to intromit with or sell belonging to merchants, his constituents; that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port, by takeing them into copartnery with himself without the consent of the royal burrows; and that he shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows dischargeing the same; and lastly, incase any of his cautioners abovenamed shall either dye or become insufficient, that he shall renew his caution when he shall be required thereto; and they appoint him to appear before the conservator or his deput & give his oath *de fideli administratione.*

EDINBURGH.
26 December
1751.
Sederunt.

26 December 1751.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, James Stewart and James Ker; Inverness, Mr John Baillie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Elgin, Patrick Duff.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter sent by his Majestie, giveing notise that he was inform'd that a Dutch vessell, called "Ruygenholff" of Amsterdam, commanded by Jan Westerdyke, which is expected to arrive soon from Constantinople, has the plague on board, and that directions have been given for preventing the said vessell from being received in any of the ports of Holland; therefor it was Majestie's pleasure that the strongest orders should be given that all possible care may be taken for hindering this ship from being admitted into any of the ports of Scotland. Which being read, the committee appoint the following letter to be sent to all the ports of Scotland acquainting thereof, which was accordingly done, & of which letter the tenor follows:—

Gentlemen,—The King having received information that there is reason to apprehend that a Dutch vessell, called "Ruygen Holf" of Amsterdam, commanded by Jan Westerdyk, which is expected to arrive verry soon from Constantinople, has the plague on board, and that directions have been given for preventing the said vessell from being received in any of the ports in Holland, his Majesty has given orders, in the strongest manner, that all possible care may be taken to hinder this ship from being admitted into any of the ports in Scotland. The commissioners of the customs have given these orders to all their officers, and orders are sent by the commander in cheif of his Majestie's forces to all the troops quarter'd along the coast to give them ready and hearty assistance in putting these orders to vigorous execution, and I am directed by the annual committee to communicat this intelligence to yow, and in the strongest manner to intreat that yow and the other

magistrats will exert yourselves in the execution of these orders, in which the safety of our country is so much interested.—I am, most respectfully, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

EDINBURGH. 26 December 1751.

Edinbr., 26th December 1751. Geo. Drummond, preses.

23 April 1752.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of the city of Edinbr.; Edinbr., James Stuart & James Ker; Air, Andrew Hunter; Archd. Wightman; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant.

Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee taking into consideration that the office of officer to the convention of royal burrows is now vaicant by the death of John Johnstoun, late burrow officer, and it being necessary that a propper person should be nominated for the service of the annual committee in the affairs committed to them untill the sitting of the next general convention, and they being informed of the fitnes and qualifications of John Middlemist, baxter, burges & gildbrother of Edinburgh, for dischargeing that office, therefor the committee doe hereby nominat & appoint the said John Middlemist to be officer to the royal burrows for the service of their annual committee till the sitting of the next general convention.

18 June 1752.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., James Stuart, dean of gild, & James Ker, conveener; Dysert, Archibald Wightman; Wigtoun, David Baird; Northberwick, Wm. Grant, lord advocat; Inverury, Andrew Burnet.

Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee having taken into their consideration the petition of the inhabitants of Prestounpans remitted to them by the sixteenth act of the last general convention, with an attestation under the hand of the rt. honble. the Lord Drummore and Mr George Buchan of Kello certifying the truth of the facts set forth

Prestonpans alter'd to one shilling in the tax roll.

EDINBURGH. 18 June 1752. Prestonpans alter'd to one shilling in the tax roll.

in the said petition, and they being therewith and with the report of their agent fully satisfyed of the low state of the inhabitants of the said town and of the great decay of their trade, doe therefor in virtue of the powers granted to them by the last convention reduce their present rate of three shilling Scots in the tax roll to one shilling Scots, and appoint their agent to take payment of their cess & missive dues at that rate from this date in time coming untill the same is alter'd by the convention, reserving the consideration of the arrears due by the said town untill next meeting of the committee or of the next convention.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

7 July 1752.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Stuart & James Ker; Perth, John Robertson of Tullibelton; Dundie, Patrick Yeaman, provost; Aberdeen, James Black; Stirling, John Jeffrey; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, Peter Douglas; Glasgow, John Murdoch, junior; Air, Andrew Slowan; Hadingtoun, William Ray; Dysert, David Reddie; Kirkaldie, John Currie; Montrose, George Ross, Esqr., provost; Couper, the honble. Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, John Graham; Inverness, Angus M'Intosh; Bruntisland, Robert Angus; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, James Boyle, Esqr.; Jedburgh, Andrew Lookup; Wigtoun, Alexr. Hooks; Pittenweem, Thomas Martin; Dumferling, John Wilson; Anstruther Wester, George Rob; Selkirk, William Currer; Dumbarton, Capt. John Noble; Ranfrew, William Somervel; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, John Gardner; Elgine, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, Andrew Jamison; Tain, John Davidson, Esqr.; Culross, James Johnstoun; Banf, Alexander Innes; Whithorn, Mr John M'Gowan; Forfar, William Ker; North Berwick, Willm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, John Thomson; Kilrenny, Robert

Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmaben, Robert Henderson; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintore, Mr Robert Bruce; Inverurie, Mr Andrew Burnet; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant; Inverbervie, John Brodie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Campbeltoun, Mr William Buchannan; (twelve burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses during the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he having formerly qualifyed to his Majesty [the] King as the law directs in the same capacity.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

2d art. of ye missive read.

3. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Ranfrew, Whithorn, Annan, and Inverurie as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to the convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their own presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscribing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—David Flint, assessor for Edinburgh; James Black, commissioner for Aberdeen; Alexander Osburn, assessor for Aberdeen; John Noble, commissioner for Dumbarton; and Thomas Martine, commissioner for Pittinweem.

Committee to revise the commissions

Eodem die.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard the commissions for the burghs of Anstruther Easter, Inverness, Bruntisland, Brechin, Irving, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Dumfermling, Anstruther

Commissions approven.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752. Commissions approven.

Wester, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Craill, Culross, Banf, Forfar, North Berwick, Lauder, Kilrenny, Lochmabin, Kintore, Kirkwall, Inverbervie, Stranraer, & Campbeltoun were of oppinion that the whole commissions both of the commissioners and their assessors should be sustain'd. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Mr James Erskin, assessor for Annan; and Andrew Luckup, commissioner for Jedburgh.

Trustees' report presented.

5. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for fisherys and manufactures in Scotland, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders from Christmas 1750 to Christmas 1751, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusal of the members.

Act anent money read.

6. The same day the 39th act of the convention, 1749, anent giving of money or increasing the missive dues upon the first motion, was presented to the preses and publickly read to the convention according to appointment.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

7. The same day there was given in a commission from the burgh of Peebles nameing John Alexander, present provost of the said burgh, to be their commissioner, and another commission from the burgh of Cullen to Mr James Philp, advocat, to be their commissioner, and a third commission from the burgh of Queensferry to Baillie Robert Dick, to be their commissioner; which three commissions having been read in the convention, they approve thereof.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven,

& John Middlemist chosen officer to ye burrows.

8. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they approve thereof, and appoint their preses to return the committee the thanks of the convention; and unanimously approve of the committee's procedure, particularly with respect to their nomination of John Middlemist, baxter, burges of Edinbr., to be interim burrow officer; and the convention of new did & hereby doe elect, nominat, & appoint the said John Middlemist to be burrow officer in the room of the deceast John Johnstoun, late burrow officer.

Agent's report anent Cockeny, & a committee to settle Wm. Caddell's proportion of the tax roll.

9. The same day the convention having heard the report of their agent with respect to the town of Cockeny, representing that he could discover no trader there but William Caddell, tacksman of the coall and saltworks, who dealt in the importation of timber and iron for the use of his coalliarie & saltworks and disposed of the remainder in the way of trade cheifly att Hadingtoun, where he keept a warehouse; that Mr Caddell acknowledged he had been in use to pay into Mr Mathie, mercht. in Cockeny, who had accepted of the communication of trade, a proportion effeiring to the trade carryed on, tho not equall to what Mr Mathie had contracted for when carrying on a flourishing trade at the said port; that he was still willing to pay a reasonable composition, and willing to submit the extent of the same to the determination of the neighbouring burghs of Hadingtoun, Dumbar, and North Berwick, as appear'd from his letter to the agent produced to the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the saids burghs of Hadingtoun, Dumbar, and North Berwick to consider what is above set forth, and report their oppinion to this convention as soon as possible.

The arrears due by Thomas Mathie at Cockeny expunged.

10. The same day the agent reported that, to the best of his information, such were the circumstances of Thomas Mathie that it would be difficult to recover from him any part of the arrear incurr'd by him in consequence of his contract in name of the town of Cockeny. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the arrear due by the said Thomas Mathie to be expung'd out of the agent's accompts.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752.

Agent's report anent Limekilns.

11. The same day the convention having heard the agent's report anent Limekilns and his communeing with Sr. Peter Halket, the proprietor and superior of the said port, which had been interrupted by his going to Ireland, they appoint their agent to renew his conference with the said Sr. Peter, and to lay before the annual committee such proposalls as may occur to him for ascertaining and making effectual the quota laid upon the town & port of Limekilns.

Agent's accompts committed.

12. The same day there was presented to the convention by Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, his accompts of unfree trade and missive dues, & the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Montrose to audit and examine these accompts & report.

Heads of the genl. missive continued.

13. The same day the convention having heard read the several heads of the missive, they appoint the first sixteen articles thereof to continue heads of the next annual missive; and with respect to the seventeenth article relative to the town of Jedburgh, and eighteenth article anent the tax roll, they continue the consideration thereof till the next meeting of the convention.

Committee to consider the report for Nairne.

14. The same day the convention having heard the memorial of the burgh of Nairn, and the report of the burghs of Inverness, Forress, and Elgin to whom the same had been remitt by the last convention, they appoint the burghs of Inverness, Forress, Elgin, Cullen, and Banf to consider the matters set forth by the delegats formerly appointed, and report their oppinion to the convention.

Forress excused.

15. The same day there was presented and read a commission from the burgh of Forress to John Baillie, writer to the signet; and he being already received upon his commission from the burgh of Inverness, the convention excuse the burgh of Forress for not being represented in this convention.

16. The same day the preses of the convention made a motion signifying it had been some time under consideration that at present a

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752.

Committee to take under consideration a motion anent the publick buildings in Edinbr.

propper opportunity occurr'd for having an exchange or publick forum on the north side of the street near the Cross, by purchasing a large area and removeing back the front of the new buildings to be erected where the ruins now are, and that if there was a covered walk on the north side of the said area, it would render the exchange commodious for merchants and people of bussiness; there was also a project how a building might be erected on the ruines to the south of the Parliament Closs, where the burrow room and council chamber formerly stood, to contain a great room for the royal burrows of Scotland and their annual committee to meet in, a convenient councill chamber for the magistrats to meet in for the dispatch of business, a dwelling house for the residence of the provost during his office; that plans of these had been out by a skilfull hand, that after these had been shown to some persons of the first rank and influence of the nation, it was suggested that if there was also added a library for the faculty of advocats that the records of the nation which at present are huddled together might be accommodated in advocats' present library, and a propper room for the lords of session to put on their robes in, with convenient offices for the prinle. clerks of session and clerk to the commission of teinds for security of the valuable writings, warrands, & records in their custody, and convenient access made from the south and north to the High Street, which was absolutely necessary in view of extending the royalty, and the North Loch, which at present is a nusance, made an ornament to the city, there was reason to apprehend that all ranks in the nation would contribute by a voluntary subscription to carry on these usefull and ornamental works; that a committee of the councill of Edinbr. having as appointed met with the lords of session, barrons of exchequer, faculty of advocats, and writers to the signet, all these respectfull bodys highly approved of the above schemes, and it was expected that the convention of the royal burrows would give their countenance and contribute handsomly to the above purposes tending so much to the benefit of the nation, the convenience of the state of burrows, as well as the interest and ornament of this capital city. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1752.

Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Dumbarton, Aberbrothock, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Queensferry, Inverury, Stranraer, & Campleton as a committee to take under consideration what is above sett forth, and report their oppinion to the convention.

8 July 1752.

Commissions approven.

17. The which day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Kirkaldie to John Currie, Esqr., their present provost, and a commission by the burgh of Tain to John Davidson, Esquire, they approve of the said commissions.

Report of the committee as to the publick buildings in Edr. approven.

18. The same day the committee appointed to consider the remit from the convention touching the purchasing an area for a publick forum or exchange at the Cross of Edinbr., erecting a building on the ruines on the south side of the Parliament Closs containing a burrow room, provideing propper repositorys for the publick records of the nation, and the other usefull works mentioned in the sd. remit, did report that they were unanimously of oppinion that they greatly approve of the intention of carrying on these works of such a publick nature, and so beneficial to the capital of this part of the United Kingdom, and in order to give the more solid and effectual countenance to so extensive and commendable a plan and render the national subscriptions for carrying on the same the more universall, they were of oppinion that the convention should signify their hearty approbation of the said schems, and without coming to an immediat resolution to contribute in a conventional way, should enjoyn all the particular members of this convention to lay the same before the town councills of their respective burrows immediatly on their return home, and use their utmost intrest with them to come to a resolution to promote this laudable undertaking, as the most likly and effectual method to secure a generous and handsom assistance thereto from the state of burrows, and to acquaint the lord provost of Edinburgh with the resolutions

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1752.

which their town councills come to; and that this convention should recommend it to their annual committee to prepare a full account of these schemes, cause print and disperse the same over the nation, and send coppys thereof to all the burrows. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof, and recommend to the annual committee to prepare a full account of these schemes, cause print & disperse the same over the nation, and send coppys thereof to all the burrows, and recommend to the present members to conform themselves to the other parts of the report.

Annl. committee to print and disperse an account of the intended buildings in Edr.

[19. Report as to the agent's accompt of the unfree trade approven. 20. Report as to the agent's accompt of missive dues approven.]

21. The same day the convention remit to their annual committee to consider of the arrear due by Prestounpans, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

List of arrears of missive dues presented.

22. The same day the agent presented to the convention a list of the arrears of missive dues by the several burrows therein mentioned, whereof the tenor follows.

. . . . . .

23. The same day the lord advocat having informed the convention of the state of the proces at the instance of the burgh of Kirkwall against the unfree traders of the town of Stromness, and they being highly sensible of the importance of that question to the whole state of burrows, doe authorize and impower their agent, incase Stromness shall be cast before the Court of Session and shall appeall the same, to imploy propper persons to defend the judgment of the Court of Session before the right honble. the house of Peers; and incase the Lords of Session shall give judgment in favours of the town of Stromness, doe authorize their agent to appeal therefrom, to the end the convention may have the judgment of the house of Peers upon that matter; and allow him to depurse such sums of money as shall be necessary for either of these purposes.

Agent to defend the burgh of Kirkwall agt. the unfree traders in Stromness.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1752.

Motion anent Ranfrew & Rutherglen delay'd.

24. The same day there was a motion made by the member for North Berwick with respect to two different processes depending before the Court of Session at the instance of some of the inhabitants of the burghs of Ranfrew and Rutherglen against their magistrats. Which being considered by the convention, they delay the furder consideration thereof till their next meeting.

Annl. committee to consider the inhabitants of Perth yr. affair wt. the justices of peace.

25. The same day the member for the burgh of Perth represented to the convention that the justices of peace of that county had lately pronunced a sentence appointing the whole inhabitants of the burgh of Perth to come and assist at the reparation of the high ways within the shyre, which sentence he apprehended was contrair to law and might prove extremely hurtfull to the haill burrows of this kingdom. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Glasgow & Montrose yr. applications remit to ye annl. committee.

26. The same day the convention remit to their annual committee an application from the conveener of the trades of Glasgow and an application from the burgh of Montrose, with power to them to consider these applications and report.

Committee to consider the state of Dingwall.

27. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the magistrats and town councill of Dingwall complaining of the low state of that burgh, and praying for such aid & releif as to the convention should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the four neighbouring burrows—viz., Tayn, Inverness, Fortrose, & Nairn—to enquire into the allegations of the bill, and report their oppinion thereanent to the next convention.

Committee to consider the contract of excambion bet. Fforres and Bugtown.

28. The same day there was laid before the convention a disposition and contract of excambion by the burgh of Forress of a peice of barron ground in favours of Robert Tulloch of Bugtoun for their approbation. Which being considered, they remit to the three neighbouring burrows—vizt., Nairn, Elgin, and Inverness—to consider the same, and to report

how far the forsaid disposition and contract is for the benefit and advantage of the burgh of Forress.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1752.

29. The same day the convention having considered that notwithstanding the laws and acts of parliament have established an uniformity and standart of weights and measures, the same is not only not obtain'd, but that the weights and measures are various and different almost in every burgh and shire in Scotland, which occasions great confusion in trade and renders it impracticable for merchants or others to sell or buy with any degree of certainty; and therefor ordain every burgh to send up to the next convention an exact accompt of their weights and measures, and what proportion they respectively bear to the legall standarts established by the laws of Scotland before the Union; and hereby appoint the head burgh of every shire likeways to transmit an accompt of the weights and measures used within the burghs of barrony and regality within the shire; and hereby appoint a letter to the purpose abovementioned to be wrote to the shirriffs of such shires where there is not a royal burrow, to the end that the convention may take the whole of this matter under consideration in order to provide a propper remedy; and hereby recommend to the respective burghs to correspond with the annual committee, which committee is hereby ordain'd and required to use all propper means to bring this matter to a bearing, and to report their dilligence to the next convention; and hereby appoint the above to be a head of the next missive.

Act anent the uniformity of weights and measures a head of the missive.

Eodem die post meridiem.

30. The convention having considered the seventeenth article of the missive anent the state of the burgh of Jedburgh, they appoint the same to be dilate out of the missive.

Jedburgh's state dilate out of the missive.

31. The same day the convention having taken into their consideration the eighteenth article of the missive relative to the tax roll, they continue the tax roll as it now stands untill July next iajvij & and fifty-three years, and likeways continue any assignments made in favours of particular burrows till that time.

Tax roll continued till July 1753.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1752.

Pat. Borthwick, cryer at the advocats' bar, to be enroll'd for 18 lit. yearly.

32. The same day the convention having heard a petition for Patrick Borthwick, under barkeeper and cryer in the parliament house, they appoint him to be enrolled in the establishment for eighteen pound Scots money yearly for his services to the members of the convention.

Act impowering the annl. committee to satisfy Mr Maitland for his history of ye stable contracts.

33. The same day the convention having considered the thirty-fifth act of the convention in July 1751, whereby it was remitted to the then next annual convention to indemnify Mr Maitland of the charge of printing the history and progress of the several staple contracts by inserting the same in his history of Edinburgh, and the convention being inform'd that his history is in the press, they impower their annual committee to order the agent to make payment to him of such sum as they shall find reasonable to indemnify him accordingly.

Agent to advise wt. the solliciter & attorney genl. anent the bounty upon linning.

34. The same day the preses represented to the convention that a mercht. in town had enter'd a smal parcell of printed or stain'd linning for exportation, but upon his demanding the bounty upon linning at eighteen pence value and under a difficulty occurr'd to the commissioners of the customs about payment of the bounty, upon which the merchant had already taken the oppinion of the lord advocat for Scotland, but without the oppinion of the attorney and sollicitor general, it was possible the difficulty would remain with the commissioners; that the bounty acclaim'd, which was only a few pounds, could not admit the charge of taking such oppinion, and it would be greatly to the intrest of the dealers in that commodity to have it ascertain'd that they were intitled to that bounty. Which being considered by the convention, and being sensible that it is of publick import to have that question clear'd up, they appoint their agent, if the commissioners of the customs continue to demur, to be at the charge of taking the oppinion of his Majesty's attorney and solicitor general upon that point.

Agent to pay Nairn £12 sterl.

35. The same day the convention having heard the oppinion of the committee to whom the report anent the burgh of Nairn was remitted

EDINBURGH, 8 July 1752.

Agent to pay Nairn £12 sterl.

by the last sederunt, they appoint their agent in consideration of the low circumstances of the said burgh to make payment to them of the sum of twelve pound sterling, to enable them to pay up to Mr Forbes, the present agent, the arrears of missive dues resting to him.

The disposition by Forress to Bugtown ratifyed.

36. The same day the convention, in respect no report is made by the committee to whom the disposition and contract of excambion by the burgh of Forres to Robert Tulloch of Bugtoun was referr'd, having reassumed the consideration of that affair, and heard the said disposition read in their presence, and being satisfy'd with the conduct of the burgh in that affair, they approve of the said disposition & excambion, and appoint the said disposition to be recorded in the books of the convention immediatly after the acts of this convention.

Agent to pay sallarys and gratuities.

37. The same day the convention continue the present establishment, and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys & gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr Willm. Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterling of sallary; to William Grant, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, five pounds sterling of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own & his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pounds sterling; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pound sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, deput clerk, twenty pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, thirty pound sterling of sallary; to John Middlemist, burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary, and four pound sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, sixty pound Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots, and to Patrick Borthwick, his under barkeeper and cryer, eighteen pounds Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pounds Scots; to the keeper of

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1752.

the burrow room, fifteen pounds Scots; to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pounds Scots of supply yearly during her life.

Annual committee wt. their usual powers appointed.

38. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Wigtoun, Dumferling, Dumbar, Elgin, Tayne, Whithorn, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Stranraer, Queensferry, Inverurie, Kirkwall, and Campbeltoun as a committee to sit after dissolving of this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon any thing tending to the benefit of trade and the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows and between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and the due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several royal burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto application to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they shall have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the

committee to be upon the ninth instant at eleven a cloak in the forenoon in the council chamber, and declair that every member of this convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1752. Annual committee wt. their usual powers appointed.

39. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention, and appoint the next annual convention to meet at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July iajvij & and fifty-three years, and appoint the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Convention dissolved.

Follows the disposition and contract of excambion granted by the burgh of Forres to Robert Tulloch, appointed to be recorded by the 36th act of the foregoing convention.

. . . . . .

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

9 July 1752.

Edinbr., James Stewart; Glasgow, John Murdoch; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Montrose, George Ross; Irving, James Boyle; Coupar, Mr James Lesslie; Inverury, Mr Andrew Burnet; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Culross, James Johnstoun.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1752. Sederunt.

The which day the committee elected George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

The same day the committee having read over the several remits of the convention to them, and particularly the remit appointing ane account of the publick buildings intended in Edinbr. to be prepared and transmitted to the burrows, they remit to Edinbr., Inverness, Inverurie, and Campbeltoun to prepare the said accott. and lay the same before the annual committee.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1752.

The same day the member for the burgh of Irving represented that upon a motion from the member of North Berwick yesterday before noon, the convention had authorized their agent to deburse such sums of money as should be necessary in discussing any appeal that might be brought to the house of Peers in two processes depending before the Court of Session against the magistrats of Irving & Ranfrew incase such appealls were brought, but by a mistake of the clerk the consideration thereof is in the minut said to be delayed till their next meeting; therefor the committee being sensible of the mistake, and that the convention came unanimously to the above resolution, doe allow the agent to deburse the necessary sums of money for the above purposes.

25 August 1752.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, James Stewart and William Keir; Irving, Andrew Burnet; Dysert, Archibald Wightman; Tain, John Davidson.

The which day the commissioners for the city of Edinburgh laid before the committee proposals for carrying on of several publick works within the city of Edinburgh. Which being read, and the committee being sensible that the carrying on of these publick buildings within the said city, the metropolis of this part of the United Kingdom, will tend to the advantage of the whole nation and ought to meet with all suitable encouragment, doe therefor appoint the said proposalls to be printed and coppys thereof to be sent by their preses not only to all the royal burrows but also to such other persons and places where it may be supposed to meet with approbation, & who will give their assistance in carrying on the work conform to the eighteenth act of the last general convention.

The same day there was presented to the committee a petition for Mr John Gregory, merchant, craving to be admitted a factor at the staple port of Campvere, and making offer of Mr John Halyburton, mercht. in Edinbr., Thos. Reid, professor of phylosophy in the King's

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Colledge of Aberdeen, and David Cuthbert of Rosehall, Esqr., as cautioners for his faithfull discharge of his office. Which being considered by the committee, and they being sufficiently informed of and satisfyed with the fitness and sufficiency of the said Mr John Gregory for discharging that office, and with the sufficiency of his cautioners abovenamed, therefor the committee did & hereby doe approve of the said cautioners, and by virtue of the powers granted to them by the last general convention have given and granted and by these presents give & grant their commission, allowance, and approbation to the said Mr John Gregory to be a factor at the staple port of Campvere upon the conditions and provisions following, vizt. :—That the said office shall endure during the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the said Mr John Gregory shall behave himself honestly and dutifully in the said office, and shall make just and thankfull compt, reckoning, and payment of whatsoever goods, gear, and sums of money he shall happen to intromitt or be intrusted with, pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom he shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor, or that he shall happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows; that he shall obey all and whatsomever acts and statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general and particular conventions; and that he shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden him with, and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be whenever he shall happen to be required to that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which he shall happen to intromit with or sell belonging to merchants, his constituents; that he shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port, by takeing them into copartnery with himself, without the consent of the royal burrows; and that he shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at his own hand, conform to the acts of the

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royal burrows discharging the same; and lastly, incase any of his cautioners abovenamed shall either dye or become insufficient, that he shall renew his caution when he shall be required thereto; and they appoint him to appear before the conservator or his deput and give his oath *de fideli administratione.*

25 January 1753.

Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, James Stuart & Willm. Keir; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverkeithing, John Cunningham; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Dysert, Archibald Wightman; Wigtoun, David Baird; Campbelton, Alexr. M'Millan.

The which day the annual committee of the royal burrows elected William Alexander, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses.

The same day the preses laid before the committee the draught of a petition to the honble. the House of Commons concerning the herring fishing in open boats, and for encouraging the fishing for cod, ling, tusk, and salmond in Scotland, which is thought propper to be applyed for this session of parliament. Which being read, the committee unanimously approve of the draught of the said petition and appoint the same to be sign'd by the preses in their name, and to be transmitted to his grace the Duke of Argyle intreating his grace to promote the bill in both houses of parliament; and recommend to the preses to imploy Mr John Cathcart to sollicit and carry thro the said affair in parliament; and of which petition & letter to the Duke of Argyle the tenor follows:—

To the honble. the Commons of Great Britain in parliat. assembled, the petition of the Royal Burrows of Scotland in behalf of themselves & many others of his Majestie's industrious subjects.

Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioners being highly sensible of the many important advantages which the United Kingdoms might

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derive from the British fishery, cannot without a suitable concern observe how much the publick good is obstructed by the various exactions and oppressions, as well as other hardships & difficulties, which have too long cramped one of its most valuable branches, the open boat herring fishery, the great utility whereof sufficiently appears from hence that even in its present distressed condition it maintains many thousands of fishers, artificers, & labourers with their familys, adds considerably to the nation's wealth by the produce of its fish, and raises an inexhaustable fund of hardy seamen for the publick service.

That as the open boat herring fishery would soon become much more beneficial in all these respects if releived from the many hardships under which it now labours, your petitioners humbly presume to lay the same before this honble. house, being encouraged thereto by the declared sense of Parliament, and by the vigorous measures therein lately taken for extending and improving the British fishery.

That the proprietors of some of the isles make each boat pay no less than one guinea, under the title of foreland dues, for the use of their shores, without which the fishermen cannot cure & pack their herrings.

That in several places of the coast each boat is forced to pay from ten shillings to fourty-two shillings sterling for leave to fish, for protection, and for foreland dues.

That in many other places every boat is made to pay one night's fishing per week, which exaction is never less than one-fifth part of all the fishermen's earnings, but comes to much more as often as bad weather or any other accident prevents his catching fish, for he must pay one night's ffishing if he ffish but one, & the verry best if he fishes more.

That the fishers suffer still more by the arbitrary and capricious laws which the stewards or factors of gentlemen's estates assume a power of prescribing on all occasions. Thus, for instance, they dictat, contrary to the better judgment and experience of the fishermen, how, when, and where they shall fish; forbid all fishing on some particular nights in every week—some forbid all fishing during the second & third

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quarters of the moon, by which means a great part of the season is lost both to the fishers & to the publick—and all this only to comply with the steward's ignorant or superstitious prejudices, or to gratify his avarice by the sale of indulgences to such as can pay for them.

That some fishing villages in the northen parts are oppressed in a particular manner, the landlord claiming a right to furnish every fisher with boats, netts, and other tackle, for the use of which he takes an arbitrary share of the man's earnings; and moreover insists that whoever submits to his terms and continues under them for a year and a day becomes thereby bound for life, and accordingly reclaims him as his propperty if he deserts, yet does not think himself oblidged to maintain him when disabled by age, sickness, or accidents.

That besides all these customary oppressions the open boat fishers are often surprized with some new and unexpected demand with which, however unreasonable, their complyance is forced by seizing their boats & netts when they are most wanted.

That tho all the grivances here set forth are directly contrair to the laws, and especially to the whole tenor of the 2d act of the 3d session of Q. Ann's 1st parliament in Scotland, yet as those laws were never duely executed, they are now fallen into such desuetude that the authority of a British parliament seems absolutely necessary to give them any vigour.

That your petitioners moreover humbly apprehend that unless propper penaltys be inflicted on the wilfull obstructors or oppressors of the open boat herring fishery, and unless justice be made every where obtainable in a more easie, cheap, & summary way than at present, the laws will continue ineffectual in those distant parts.

That to prevent all causes of difference between the landed gentlemen and the fishermen, your petitioners humbly apprehend it necessary that some new regulations be made in parliament with respect to the cutting down or any ways injuring young or other timber on any pretence whatever.

Your petitioners also beg leave to represent that to support the

EDINBURGH. 25 January 1753.

credit of the British fishery experience shews it to be necessary that all barrells in which white herrings are packed should be subjected to propper regulations with regaurd to the materials & workmanship as well as size.

That the extending and improving of the British fishery, as well as the making of good salt at home, seems to be much checked by the restrictions which the laws have laid on the curers of fish in North Britain, without any apparent reason for the distinction made between them and the curers of fish in South Britain, for the latter may use any salt whatever free of excise and yet be intitled to the same bounty on exporting their fish whatever salt they are cured with; but in North Britain no bounty on exporting their fish unless they were cured only with foreign salt without any mixture of British or Irish salt, and no salt but fforreign salt can be used in curing fish without first paying the excise, which cannot afterwards be drawn back.

That herrings regularly cured in North Britain with foreign salt only, if sent coast ways to any part of South Britain cannot be there landed, either for consumption or exportation, which is a great discouragment to the open boat fishery and to trade in general.

That tho the best cod, ling, and tusk in the world, as well as excellent salmond, are caught upon the coasts of North Britain, yet none of them are importable into South Britain unless cured with salt made in South Britain, which seems to be a manifast disadvantage to both parts of the kingdom.

Your petitioners therefor most humbly pray that this honble. house will be pleased seriously to consider the premisses, and to take such order therein as to their great wisdom shall seem most meet.

Edinbr., 25th January 1753. Sign'd in presence & by appointment of the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland by

Sic subtr.,
Will. Alexander, p.

EDINBURGH. 25 January 1753.

Follows the letter to his grace the Duke of Argyle.

My lord,—The petition from the royal burrows of Scotland to parliament herewith inclosed having been already seen and approved of by your grace, I have presumed to return it yow, sign'd by me as preses in the name & with the authority and approbation of the general committee appointed by the last convention.

This committee have named and appointed Mr Cathcart to be their agent in this affair, well knowing that he has the honour to be known to and, it's beleived, approved of by your grace, and he has particular direction in every step of his proceedings to receive whatever orders yow may please to give him.

I write also to Mr Ker, our city's representative, who, wee presume, will be pitched upon as the person propper to present this petition to the house, that he wait on your grace and receive directions from yow in every step of his proceedings.

The protection and patronage wherewith your grace has honour'd for many years past the trading part of your country, gives us the greatest assurance that wee may depend on all your intrest for carrying through this bill in both houses of parliament, and it's upon this protection only wee depend for the success of this attempt for promoting the interest of our country in so valuable & important branch of our trade as this of the herring fishing.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, my lord, your grace's most obedient & most humble servant,

William Alexander, p.

Edinr., 25th Janry. 1753.

19 June 1753.

Sederunt.

Willm. Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., James Stuart and James Ker; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Hunter; Dumferling, Hugh Forbes; Irving, Patrick Spark; David Baird; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant.

The which day the agent presented two accompts of printings, the one by William Sands and Company for the proposals sent to the royal burrows & other parts of the nation concerning the publick works in the city of Edinburgh, amounting to sixty pounds ten shillings and ten pence sterl., and the other by Gawin Hamilton & Compy. for printing in Mr Maitland's history the staple contracts enter'd into betwixt the royal burrows and the town of Camphire, amounting to sixteen pounds fourteen shillings & nine pence sterling. Which accotts. and the orders for these printings being read, the committee remitt to the commissioners for the burghs of Edinburgh, Air, & Whithorn to cognosce the prices stated in the said accompts & report. EDINBURGH. 19 June 1753.

26 June 1753.

Willm. Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., James Stuart and James Ker; Inverness, John Baillie; Air, Andrew Hunter; Irving, Patrick Spark. Sederunt.

The which day the sub-committee reported that they having in obedience to the foregoing remit considered the accompt due William Sands & Company for printing the proposals, &ca., for carrying on certain publick works within the city of Edinbr., amounting to sixty pounds ten shillings and ten pence sterl., they fand the prices stated in the said accompt to be reasonably charged, and therefor were of oppinion the same should be paid if the committee thought propper. Which report being considered by the annual committee, they appoint their agent to pay the same to the sd. Wm. Sands & Compy.

The same day the sub-committee before named reported that they having also considered the accott. due to Baillie Gavin Hamilton & Company for printing in Mr Maitland's history the staple contracts enter'd into betwixt the royal burrows and the town of Campvere, amounting to sixteen pounds fourteen shillings and nine pence sterl., they fand the same reasonably charged, and they were of oppinion the

EDINBURGH. 26 June 1753.

committee might order payment thereof. Which being considered by the annual committee, they appoint their agent to pay the same accordingly.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

3 July 1753.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, David Flint & Wm. Keir; Perth, James Crie; Dundee, Andrew Wardroper; Aberdeen, James Morison, Esqr.; Stirling, John Jaffrey; Linlithgow, John Buckney; St Andrews, Robert Douglas; Glasgow, John Brown; Air, Andrew Slouan; Hadingtoun, William Rye; Dysert, David Reddie; Kirkaldie, Robert White; Montrose, George Ross; Couper, the Honble. Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun, senr.; Dumfreise, Robert Ferguson; Inverness, John Hossack; Bruntisland, John Haxtoun; Inverkeithing, John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Knox; Irving, Lord Shewaltown; Jedburgh, John Douglas; Kirkudbright, William Gordon; Wigtoun, Patrick M'Kie; Pittenweem, John Morton; Dumferling, Sr. Peter Halket; Anstruther Wester, Robert Hunter; Selkirk, William Currer; Dumbarton, James Smollet; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, Robert Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, John Gairdner; Elgine, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, John Oliphant; Tain, William, Mr. of Ross; Culross, James Johnstoun; Banf, James Innes; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forfar, John Ure; Ruthglen, Robert Spence; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, George Edmonstoun; Kilrenny, Robert Waddell; Anman, Bryce Blair, Esqr.; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, William Crightoun; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintoir, Robert Bruce; Inverurie, Walter Ferguson; Kirkwall, Mr Ffrancis Grant; Inverbervie, Thomas Chrystie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (ten burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses dureing the

sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, and qualifyed himself to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

2nd art. of the missive read.

3. The same day the convention appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Dumfreise, Kinghorn, Wigtoun, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Aberbrothock, Tayne, Banf, Whithorn, North Berwick, Annan, Queensferry, Kirkwall, and Stranraer as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to the convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—William Muat, assessor for Aberdeen, and Robert Ferguson, commissioner for Dumfreise.

Committee to revise the commissions.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard read & considered the commissions for the burghs of St Andrews, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Brechin, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Pittenweem, Dumferline, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Lanerk, Elgin, Craill, Culross, Forfar, Ruthglen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Lochmabin, Kintore, and Inverurie, they were of oppinion that the whole commissions both of the commissioners and assessors should be sustain'd. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, & subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—George Edmonstoun, commissioner for Lauder; John Ure, commis-

Commissions approven.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753.

Commissions approven.

sioner for Forfar; John Wilson, assessor for Lanerk; John Douglas, commissioner for Jedburgh; Robert Huntar, commissioner for Anstruther Wester; & William M'Killop, assessor for Stirling.

39 act, 1749, read.

5. The same day the 39th act of the convention, 1749, anent giveing of money or increaseing the missive dues upon the first motion, was presented to the preses and publickly read to the convention according to appointment.

Eod. die post meridiem.

Commissions approven.

6. The convention having heard read the commission from the burgh of Irving appointing the honble. Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, one of senators of the colledge of justice, their commissioner, and Mr Patrick Spark, writer, his assessor, and the commission from Cullen to Mr James Philp, advocat, to be their commissioner, as also the commission from Inverbervie appointing Mr Thomas Christie, one of the present magistrats, their commissioner, and John Brodie, mercht., his assessor, with the commission from the town of Aberbrothock in favours of Mr John Gardiner, their present provost, they approve of the said commissions; and the said Patrick Spark, assessor for Irving, and Robert Douglas, commissioner for St Andrews, and Robert Spence for Rutherglen qualifyed themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same wt. the assurance.

Annual missive read.

7. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence, they remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named to meet to-morrow at eleven a cloak at the laigh council house, and to report to the convention at their first meeting.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, they unanimously approve of their conduct & proceedings.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753.

Agent's accompts presented.

9. The same day there was presented to the convention by Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, his accompts of unfree trade and missive dues; and the convention appoints the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Montrose, and Bruntisland to audit and examine these accompts & report, & the committee to meet to-morrow morning at nine a cloak in the laigh councill house.

Report of the trustees & payts. presented.

10. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for fisherys & manufactures, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' order for the year ending at Christmas last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Letter from Willm. Caddell committed.

11. The same day there was presented by Mr Hugh Forbes, agent to the convention, a letter from William Caddell, mercht. in Cockeny, signifying his desire to preserve the communication of trade they formerly enjoyed, and his willingness to undertake in name of that village to subject himself to pay at the rate of a penny sterling in the tax roll for cess & missive dues; and upon allowance of what he pay'd bona fide to Mr Mathie, to submitt to the convention or any two burrows they should name what should be paid by him for bygones. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Haddingtoun, Dumbar, and North Berwick to consider Mr Caddell's proposal and report their oppinion to the convention.

Annl. committee to apply to parliat.

12. The same day a motion was made by the commissioner from Glasgow that as the linnen manufactures are of the utmost importance to this part of the United Kingdom, the convention should, by themselves or their annual committee vested with conventional powers, take all propper measures for obtaining some furder parliamentary encouragment to this most valuable branch of commerce at present in a declineing state, and to give their aid to any application that might be made in parliament for explaining and improveing the laws

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753.

Annl. committee to apply to parliat.

for British fisherys and for giveing such furder encouragment to them as to the wisdom of the legislator should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to their annual committee with conventional powers to take such measures as to them shall appear most propper for attaining the valuable purposes of procureing parliamentary encouragment to the linnen manufactures, and countenanceing any application that may be made to the legislator for explaining the laws concerning the British fisherys and procureing furder encouragment to that branch of trade.

Annl. committee to apply to parliat. for a bankrupt act.

13. The same day George Drummond, Esqr., represented to the convention that by certain unavoidable accidents the bill prepared for a more equall destribution of the effects of bankrupts and preventing creditors at hand, by summar dilligence, disappointing the just claim of creditors at a distance, had not passed into an act, and that it was great pity the valuable ends proposed by that bill should be frustrated, and therefor moving the convention to take the same under their furder consideration, and lay hold of the first favourable opportunity of applying to the legislator for remedying, in whole or in part, the inconveniencys proposed to be remedyed by the said bill. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to their annual committee with conventional powers to take such measures as should appear to them most propper for obtaining the ends proposed by the said bankrupt bill.

Committee to consider the schem for the publick buildings in Edr.

14. The same day George Drummond, Esqr., represented to the convention that in consequence of the remit to their last committee a full accompt of the schem for the improvement and ornament of the city of Edr. had been printed and dispersed thro the nation, that in general there appear'd an uncommon spirit for promoteing the intended publick works, that many of the nobility & first gentry of the nation had contributed handsomly to that purpose, and persons of the first figure for rank and character had accepted of the trust reposed in them by parliament for executing these works; that as this publick spirited

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753.

Committee to consider the schem for the publick buildings in Edr.

scheme had taken rise in the convention, he made no doubt but the state of burrows would with unanimity by a generous assistance contribut to promote so laudable an undertaking for provideing a propper hall for the convention of the royal burrows, secureing the publick records of the nation, and adorning the capital of this part of the United Kingdom. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Ranfrew, Tayne, Annan, Dysert, Montrose, Queensferry, Northberwick, and Stranraer as a committee to meet to-morrow at ten a cloak in the laigh council house, and report their oppinion to the convention what sum should be given by the state of burrows for promoteing the improvement and imbellishment of the city of Edinburgh.

Petition for Stranraer remit to the annl. committee.

15. The same day a petition was read for the burgh of Stranraer importing that one, Robert Agnew of Sheuchan, who has a propperty within the burgh, had some years ago applyed to the Court of Session for a suspension of the stent imposed on him for his propperty & trade and put the burrow to a considerable charge and expence in discussing the suspension; that tho the burgh prevaill'd and he found lyable in coasts, yet Sheuchan had lately raised a reduction of the said decreet and repetition of the sums paid in consequence thereof, containing a declarator in time coming that he should be only lyable in twelve pound Scots; that if small burrows were thus to be vexed at the instance of litigious persons having propperty within burgh, their whole common good might be exhausted in processes; that Stranraer in particular had little or no common good to defend themselves against such actions, and therefor praying for such releif as the convention should think reasonable. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the petition to their annual committee, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Petition for Pittenweem referr'd to a committee.

16. The same day there was read a petition from the burgh of Pittenweem representing their deplorable circumstances, being over-

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1753.

Petition for Pittenweem referr'd to a committee.

loaded with debt and threatned with ultimat dilligence, particularly by Robert Clelland of Kirk Newtoun; that they had no prospect of releif but by selling a part of their common good, and even as to this disagreeable remedy, they had been served with an inhibition at the instance of Mr David Beath, their minister, and therefor praying the convention to take the premisses under consideration, and give their concurrance & approbation to the sale of such parts of the town's common lands as will extinguish the debts of its most pressing creditors. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Anstruther Easter, Anstruther Wester, St Andrews, Kilrenny, and Coupar, or any three of them, to enquire into the facts and circumstances represented, & to report.

Petition for Kirkwall presented.

17. The same day there was read in the convention a petition from the burgh of Kirkwall importing that before the village of Stromness became a place of trade, Kirkwall was the only place in the Orkneys that dealt in forreign trade, but after Stromness became considerable it was in use to releive Kirkwall of one-third of their proportion in the tax roll, particularly from the year 1719 to the 1742, but that since that time most of the considerable dealers had struck out and Kirkwall left without releif except by law processes, which for the most part proved more expensive than beneficial; that the convention had at different times interposed to set matters to rights, but the good end they had in view had not hitherto taken place; that the receiver general, in the meantime, had sent a large quartering party upon the town of Kirkwall, which had oblidged them to borrow up money to pay the arrears, altho the greatest part had been incurred thro the want of releif from Stromness, and therefor praying the honble. convention to consider their unhappy situation and order such releif as should appear propper to the wisdom of the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the petition to lye on the table till to-morrow, that the same may be furder taken under the consideration of the convention.

4 July 1753.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1753.

The heads of the missive & the tax roll continued untill July 1754.

18. The which day the committee to whom the consideration of the missive was remitted reported that they were unanimously of oppinion that the haill heads and articles of this general missive should be continued as heads and articles of the next general missive, and that the tax roll as it now stands should continue till July iajvij & and fifty-four years, and also the assignations made to particular burghs of the unfree trade within their bounds should be continued to them untill that time; and that the convention should recommend to the several royal burrows to be more punctual in sending up members to represent them at the general assembly, it being inform'd that several burghs are remiss in that matter. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the above report, and particularly continue the tax roll as it now stands untill their meeting in July iajvij & and fifty-four; and recommend to the several royal burrows to be punctual in sending up propper persons to represent them in every meeting of the general assembly, that the convention may not be laid under the disagreeable necessity of takeing furder notice of negligences of this kind.

[19. Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited. 20. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited.]

Commissions approven.

21. The same day the convention having heard read a commission from the burgh of Peebles in favours of John Alexander, present provost, to be their commissioner, and a commission from the burgh of Sanquhar appointing John Crightoun, present provost, to be their commissioner, and Alexander Goldie of Mains, his assessor, with a commission from the burgh of Invernes appointing John Hossack, late provost, their commissioner, and John Baillie, writer, his assessor, they approve of the said commissions.

22. The same day the committee appointed last sederunt to consider what should be done with regaurd to the intended publick works in the

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1753. Committee's report as to the publick works in the city of Edinburgh approven, and £1500 sterl. given for promoting these works.

city of Edinburgh by the convention gave in the following report:—The committee appointed to consider the motion relative to the schem for improveing and ornamenting the city of Edinbr. and carrying on the publick works there, being satisfyed that the same will not only tend to the ornament of the capital of this part of the United Kingdom, but prove a national advantage, as well as become usefull to the state of burrows by providing them with a convenient burrow room, doe therefor report as their unanimous oppinion that the convention should encourage this extensive undertaking by once for all contributeing something handsome towards carrying it into execution; but in regaurd some of the burrows are engaged in usefull and expensive works at home, and others however liberally disposed may have difficulties to struggle with, doe on these accounts propose that the convention should agree to give fifteen hundred pounds sterling towards carrying on and perfecting these works, and that the same should be payable in six proportions, each proportion to be charged annually on the missive, with this express proviso, that no more is to be contributed by the burrows for carrying on any or all of these works, and that the building of the burrow room and repository for the publick records be carryed on with the utmost expedition. Which report being considered by the convention, they unanimously approve thereof, and enact and ordain accordingly.

Elgin saved as to what they subscrib'd for toward sd. buildings.

23. The same day upon a motion from the commissioner of the burgh of Elgin representing in name of his burrow that he heartily approved of the encouragment given by the state of burrows to the intended improvements within the city of Edinburgh, but as there had already been a subscription made in name of that smal burrow for the sum of ten pounds sterling, he moved that the burgh should have credit for that sum out of the proportions to be advanced on the missive, unless the subscription in name of the burgh be cancell'd; to which motion the convention agreed.

24. The same day the burghs of Hadingtoun and Dumbar, to whom the consideration of Mr Caddell's proposal with respect to the

village of Cockeny was remitted, reported that they having considered Mr Caddell's proposal mentioned in his letter were of oppinion that the convention should accept of his offer and authorize their agent to enter into a contract of communication with him, he paying at the rate of a penny sterling in the tax roll in time comeing, and that he should also pay at the same rate for one year—vizt., from July 1752 to July 1753. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and authorize their agent to enter into a contract of communication with him in the above terms accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1753. Agent impower'd to enter into contract wt. Wm. Caddell in Cockeny.

25. The same day there was presented a petition from the burgh of Kirkaldie seting forth that the peice of land adjoining to the burgh, called the South Links, which is part of the common good, sets at present for a smal rent, which might be improved if few'd out as other parts of the town's common good has already been; and therefor praying the convention to authorize the burgh, at the sight of the magistrats of Kinghorn and Dysert, to few out the said peice of land to the highest bidder. Which being considered by the convention, they authorize the said few to be made at the sight of the burghs of Kinghorn and Dysert, with this provisio, that no such few shall be made unless the ffew duty be to the full worth and availl of the lands and to the improvement of the present rent.

Kirkaldie impower'd to few out their South Links.

26. The same day there was presented to the convention petitions from the several incorporations of weavers in the following burghs, —vizt., Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Dumfermling, Inverkeithing, Kirkudbright, and Rutherglen—setting forth, *inter alia*, that great advantages acrewed to the publick by the trades being regularly incorporated, which also by having a publick fund put them in a condition of supporting their own poor; but by an act in the 24th year of his present Majesty, intituled an act for encouragment of linnen and hemp manufactures, a way was opened for great numbers of persons following different branches of trade relative to the said manufactures, however unskillfull, of setting up in the burrows as weavers without

Several petitions from the incorporat weavers refer'd to the annl. committee.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1753.

Several petitions from the incorporat weavers refer'd to the annl. committee.

being chargable with any entry money or otherways, whereby their several incorporations were not only in danger of being brought into discredit, but their poor likely to be left a burden on the burrows; that they were perswaded that the whole consequences of that act when past had not been adverted to, and therefor praying the convention would appoint application to be made next session of parliament for repeal of the said act, or such other releif as to the legislature should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the whole petitions to their annual committee and recommend to them to conferr with the trustees for improvement of manufactures, and, if practicable, to devise some propper remedy for redressing the grivances complained of.

Petition for Stirling and Linlithgow remit to ye annual committee.

27. The same day there was read in the convention a petition from the burghs of Stirling & Linlithgow importing that of late some attempts had been made to call out the burgeses and inhabitants to work on the turnpike roads, altho they had no farming without the royalty of these burghs, and had not only the burden of repairing the streets within the royalty, but even to a considerable distance without their ports, which they conceived was not founded on law or equity, and therefor praying the convention to grant such concurrance and releif in the premises as they in their great wisdom should find meet and effectual. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their annual committee, with power to them after adviseing with the lord advocat to grant such aid and concurrance to the said burghs for their releif as shall be deemed by them agreeable to law.

Kirkwall's petn. remit to ye annl. committee.

28. The same day the convention having resumed the consideration of the petition from the burgh of Kirkwall, they remit the same to their annual committee, recommending it to them to give their aid and concurrance for obtaining the releif therein pray'd for from the village of Stromness.

Arrears of missive dues.

29. The same day the agent according to appointment of the convention produced a list of the arrears of missive dues incurred at July 1753.

. . . . . .

Eodem die post meridiem.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1753.

Establishment continued, & the agent to pay sallarys & gratuitys, &ca.

30. The same day the convention continue the present establishment, and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—To Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pounds sterling of sallary; to Willm. Grant, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, five pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pound sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pound sterl.; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, deput clerk, twenty pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, thirty pounds sterling for sallary & writings; to John Middlemist, burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary and four pound sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk to the burrow aeque, sixty pound Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to Patrick Borthwick, his under barkeeper and cryer, eighteen pounds Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pound Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pounds Scots; to Anna Kennedy, daughter to conservator Kennedy, sixty pound Scots of supply yearly dureing her life.

Agent to concurr wt. Inverkeithing and Dumferling agt. Capt. Anstruther.

31. The same day there was read a petition for the burghs of Inverkeithing and Dumferling importing that the said burghs past memory of man had the liberty of a road thro part of the lands of Mr Philip Anstruther of Spencerfeild, and thro part of the lands of Mr Blackwood of Pitravie, leading to and from the coal heughs of the town of Dumferling and these of Touch, and that not only for carrying of coalls to the town and harbour of Innerkeithing, but also for carrying timber and iron and other goods from the said town & harbour to Dumfermling

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1753. Agent to concurr wt. Inverkeithing and Dumferling agt. Capt. Anstruther.

and else where by the said road; that lately Capt. Anstruther had ploughed up the road, and altho they had been restored to the possession by a sentence of the justices of peace, yet there was reason to apprehend the Captain would carry the cause before the Court of Session, and as it was a matter of publick concern, therefor praying the countenance and protection of the convention in the premisses. Which being considered by the convention, they authorize their agent to concurr in supporting the priviledge of the burrows with regard to the said road, and to give them all the aid in his power without subjecting the burrows to any expence.

Zetland's unfree trade referr'd to the annl. committee.

31.* The same day the member for Kirkwall represented that he thought it his duty to acquaint the convention that the town of Lerwick in Zetland and other towns in that large island carryed on a considerable foreign trade without being subjected to any of the tax roll, that if Kirkwall was assign'd to the unfree trade of Zetland it might not only contribut to releive that burgh from its present distress, but pave the way for the towns in Zetland's accepting the communication of trade, and so far releive the burrows in general, there being reason to beleive that the towns of Zetland would not be overburdened though annually charged with one pounds Scots of the tax roll. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee, with power to them to assign to Kirkwall for its releif the unfree trade of all or any of the towns in Zetland as they shall see cause, or of any other islands thereunto belonging.

5 July 1753.

Annuall committee appointed.

32. The which day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Wigtoun, Dumfermling, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Tain, Banf, Whithorn, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Queensferry, Inverury,

* Apparently a clerical error—should be 32.

Kirkwall, and Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolveing of this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they shall have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention iajvij & and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be sixth instant at eleven a cloak in the forenoon in the laigh councill house, and declair that every member of this convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting on any emergent.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1753.

Annuall committee appointed.

33. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at the

Convention dissolved.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1753. Convention dissolved.

burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Wednesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

6 July 1753.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1753. Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and William Keir; Perth, James Crie; Linlithgow, John Buckney; Glasgow, John Brown; Air, Andrew Slowan; Inverkeithing, John Cunningham; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Kirkwall, Mr Francis Grant; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Bruntisland, George Drummond; Wigtoun, David Baird.

The which day the committee elected William Alexander, Esquire, lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses.

The same day the committee having read over the several remits of the convention to them, and particularly that relative to the petitions of the incorporated weavers in the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, &ca., and having maturely considered the inconveniencies represented as likely to arise, and in part already felt, from unskilfull persons and such as have served apprentiships for too short a time to be sufficiently instructed claiming the priviledge of setting up as masters, without contributing any thing to the publick stock appropriated to the mentinance of the poor of the respective incorporations, and insisting on their right of setting up as masters in the royal burrows in virtue of the act of parliament past in the twenty-fourth year of his present Majesty's reign, the committee are unanimously of oppinion that it would be highly impropper at this time to apply to the legislature for the repeal or alteration of any part of that act; but being also of oppinion that great inconveniencys may arise to the linnen trade from unskillfull persons or such as have served too short apprentiships setting

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1753.

up as masters, doe therefor offer it as their oppinion and advice to the several incorporations of weavers not to receive apprentises for a shorter term than five years, and recommend it to the magistrats of each burgh, in virtue of the powers with which they are vested, to cause inspect the work of such as have or shall set up master weavers within their liberty, and if found unskilfull to cause seize and bring their work to condemnation according to law; and furder the committee recommend it to the several incorporations of weavers to take up an exact list of such as have or shall set up master weavers in virtue of the above act of parliament, without being regularly admitted by or paying upsets to the trade, and transmitt the same to the annual committee; and furder the committee doe authorize the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Linlithgow, Inverkeithing, Dumfermling, Air, Whithorn, Wigtoun, Dumbar, Stranraer, and Kirkwall, or any three of them, with the agent, to wait on the honble. the trustees for the improvement of manufactures and to conferr with them on this subject, that matters may be prepared incase any future convention should find it advisable to apply to the legislature for any improvement of the above act of parliament for the encouragment of the linnen and hemp manufactures, or redressing what is complain'd of as grivances by the incorporations of weavers; and the committee being furder unanimously of oppinion that all propper encouragment should be given to skilfull workmen in any of the different trades in the kingdom, doe therefor appoint their preses to write a circular letter to be transmitted to all the royal burrows of Scotland, warmly recommending it to the magistrats to use their utmost intrest with the several incorporated trades to admit on the most easie terms into their different incorporations all such skilfull workmen as from time to time shall apply to their rexive trades for that purpose.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the two several remits of the last convention to them, the one concerning the petition of the magistrats of Kirkwall, and the other concerning the unfree trade of Zetland and the other islands thereunto belonging, and they being satisfyed that it is for the intrest of the royal burrows that

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1753.

the traders in Zetland should be brought to pay some proportion of the tax roll for their said unfree trade, doe therefor authorize & appoint their agent to assign to the magistrats of the burgh of Kirkwall the unfree trade of Zetland & the islands thereunto belonging, and to the whole penaltys & forfaultures that are imposed by law upon such unfree traders, with power to the said magistrats or such persons as shall be appointed by them to use such dilligence for recovering the said forfaultures and penaltys as the law directs, and this to endure till July next; and appoints the said magistrats of Kirkwall to report their dilligence herein to the convention in July next.

2 August 1753.

Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preses; Edinbr., David Flint & Wm. Keir; Inverness, John Baillie; Dysert, Archd. M'Aulay; Kinghorn, George Drummond; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Dumferling, Mr Hugh Forbes; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Archd. Wightman.

The which day the committee having taken to consideration the twelveth act of the last convention relative to an application to be made to parliament for propper encouragment to the linnen manufactures of this kingdom, and the preses having laid before the committee the draught of a letter to that purpose to be sent to the haill royal burrows, the committee approve thereof and appoint their preses to sign the same and send a coppy thereof to each royal burrow in Scotland, and of which letter the tenor follows :—

Gentlemen,—The act of parliament allowing a bounty on British linnen exported expires next session; as there is reason to fear that this bounty may not be renewed, the convention of the royal burrows in Scotland had that affair under their consideration at their last annual meeting; they were of oppinion that incase the bounty is withdrawn unless some other encouragment is given the linnen manufacture of this country must be greatly reduced, that all degrees of people will more or less suffer by it, & that many poor will be ruined.

EDINBURGH. 2 August 1753.

The burrows therefor think it their duty unanimously to concurr in every reasonable measure that may tend to preserve so valuable a branch of trade, and I am desired to beg the good offices of your town with their representative in parliament that he may zealously support any measure conducive to that end.

It is also hoped yow will use your intrest with the gentlemen of the county in which yow live, that at their next quarter sessions they may recommend this matter to their member in parliament, soe that all the members may be united in so national & important an affair to the whole country. If yow will inform me of the success of your applications it will be oblidging, & I shall communicat them to the annual committee.—I am, gentlemen, your most obedient & humble servant,

Edinr., 2d August 1753. William Alexander, preses.

9 October 1753.

Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and William Keir; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Queensferry, George Drummond.

The which day the committee having resumed the consideration of the twelveth act of the last general convention relative to the linnen manufactures of this kingdom, they agreed to the draught of a letter to be sent to the whole royal burrows, which they appoint their preses to sign in their name, to be dispatcht by this day's post, whereof the tenor follows:—

Gentlemen,—The annual committee having taken into consideration the order of the convention to them of the third of July last, to take such measures as shall appear most propper to them for attaining the valuable purposes of procuring parliamentary encouragment to the linnen manufactures, and countenanceing any application that may be made to the legislature for explaining the laws concerning the British fisherys and procureing further encouragment to that branch of trade, are of oppinion that if either the bounty is not continued upon the

EDINBURGH. 9 October 1753.

exportation of our coarse linnen manufactures for a further term of years, or the drawback of the dutys on forreign linnen exported is not struck off, it will put an end to the exportation of our home manufactured cloth, and that this matter requires the utmost attention of the state of burrows.

The committee think it therefor their duty to advise with the whole burrows not now present if or not it will be necessary to send up some persons well skill'd in these matters to sollicit the ministry and both houses of parliament for one or other of these measures to take place, and as this will be attended with some expence to the state of burrows, I am commanded by the committee to pray of yow to meet with them here on Tuesday, the twenty-third instant, to join in councill with your brethern as to what is fitt to be done in this matter, and if yow possibly cannot favour us with your presence, that yow will give us your oppinion about it by a letter, that the person or persons to be imployed may have due time to prepare themselves for such an important undertaking.—I am, most respectfully, gentlemen, your most humble servt., William Alexander, provest.

Edinbr., 9th October 1753.

23 October 1753.

Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and James Ker; Perth, James Crie; Hadingtoun, William Rye; Bruntisland, Thomas Chrystie; Wigtoun, David Baird; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Aberbrothock, John Gardner; Queensferry, Robert Dick.

The which day the committee having resumed the consideration of the 12th act of the last general convention relative to the linnen manufactorys of this kingdom and the propper application appointed to be made to parliament for encouraging thereof, the preses acquainted the committee that according to their appointment of the ninth current he

EDINBURGH. 23 October 1753.

had dispatched letters to the haill royal burrows desireing their attendance this day to deliberat on that important affair, that he had received letters from the burghs of Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Montrose, Anstruther Wester, Anstruther Easter, Dumbar, Inverkeithing Dumfreise, Dumfermling, Pittenweem, Irving, Aberbrothock, Lauder, Lanerk, Brechin, Forfar, Northberwick, and Cullen, all excuseing for their non-attendance, but giveing their oppinion concerning the linnen manufactures and what was propper to be done thereanent; which several letters being read in presence of the committee, and it appearing from them that the said several burrows agree in the general that all propper measures ought to be taken to support the linnen manufactures of this kingdom, and the greatest part of them being also of oppinion that in order to attain a continuation of the bounty on the low priced linnen, or that the drawback on forreign linnen imported should be taken off, it will be necessary to send up propper persons to sollicite for one or other of these purposes with the ministry and both houses of parliament; and the several members of this committee who were present having delivered their oppinion in this matter, and the committee being fully satisfyed that the promoteing the linnen manufacture is of the greatest importance to the nation, they did and hereby doe agree to send one or two commissioners to London to negotiat the continuation of the aforsaid bounty, or that the drawback on forreign linnen be taken off, or to sollicit such parliamentary aid and encouragment to the linnen manufacture as they shall judge meet for the intrest of that trade, at an expence not exceeding five hundred pounds sterling both for the said commissioners their expence of residence at London and of all other expence of their journey to and from London, or that may occur in this matter; and recommend to the members of this committee, or any three of them, to meet with the trustees for encouraging of the linnen manufactures and the directors of the British Linnen Company, and to endeavour to know of them what part of the said expence they will bear.

EDINBURGH.
20 November
1753.
Sederunt.

20 November 1753.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., David Flint; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Queensferry, George Drummond; Dumferling, Hugh Forbes; Air, Andrew Hunter; Wigtoun, David Baird; Elgin, Patrick Duff.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter which he had received from Mr John Cathcart, sollicitor at London, incloseing a new draught of a petition to parliament in favours of the white herring fishing in open boats. Which being read, the committee approve thereof and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name and to transmit the same to his grace the Duke of Argyle; and at the same time to write to Mr John Cathcart to prosecute and follow furth the same in both houses of parliament in such a way and manner as he shall be directed by his grace the Duke of Argyle to do therein; and of which petition—

To the Honble. the Commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled.

The petition of the Royal Burrows of Scotland in behalf of themselves and many others of his Majestie's industrious subjects.

Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioners being highly sensible of the many important advantages which the United Kingdoms might derive from the British fishery, cannot without a suitable concern observe how much the publick good is obstructed by the various exactions and oppressions, as well as other hardships and difficulties, which have too long cramped one of its most valueable branches, the open boat herring fishery, the great utility whereof sufficiently appears from hence that even in its present distressed condition it mentains many thousands of fishers, artificers, and labourers with their familys, adds considerably to the nation's wealth by the produce of its fish, and raises an inexhaustable fund of hardy seamen for the publick service.

That as the open boat herring fishery would soon become much

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more beneficial in all these respects if releived from the many hardships under which it now labours, your petitioners humbly presume to lay the same before this honble. house, being encouraged thereto by the declared sense of parliament, and by the vigorous measures therein lately taken for extending & improveing the British fishery.

That the proprietors of some of the isles make each boat pay no less than one guinea, under the title of foreland dues, for the use of their shores, without which the fishermen cannot cure & pack their herrings.

That in several places of the coast each boat is forced to pay from ten shillings to fourty-two shillings sterling for leave to fish, for protection, and for foreland dues.

That in many other places every boat is made to pay one night's ffishing per week, which exaction is never less than one-fifth part of all the fisherman's earnings, but comes to much more as often as bad weather or any other accident prevents his catching fish, for he must pay one night's fishing if he fish but one, & the verry best if he fishes more.

That the fishers suffer still more by the arbitrary and capricious laws which the stewards or factors of gentlemen's estates assume a power of prescribing on all occasions. Thus, for instance, they dictate, contrair to the better judgment and experience of the fishermen, how, when, and where they shall fish, forbid all fishing on some particular nights in every week—nay, some forbid all fishing dureing the second and third quarters of the moon, by which means a great part of the season is lost both to the fishers and to the publick—and all this only to comply with the steward's ignorant or superstitious prejudices, or to gratify his avarice by the sale of indulgences to such as can pay for them.

That beside all these customary oppressions the open boat fishers are often surprized with some new and unexpected demand with which, however unreasonable, their compliance is forced by seizing their boats and nets when most wanted.

That tho all the grivances here set forth are directly contrary to the laws, and especially to the whole tenor of the 2d act of the

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3d session of Q. Ann's parliat. in Scotland, yet as those laws were never duely executed, they are now fallen into such desuetude that the authority of a British parliament seems absolutely necessar to give them any vigour.

That your petitioners moreover humbly apprehend that unless propper penaltys be inflicted on the wilfull obstructers and oppressors of the open boat herring fishery, and unless justice be made every where obtainable in a more easy, cheap, & easy way than at present, the laws will still continue ineffectual in those distinct parts.

That to prevent all causes of difference between the landed gentlemen and the fishermen, your petitioners humbly apprehend it necessary that some new regulations be made in parliament with respect to the cutting down or any ways injureing young or other timber on any pretence whatever.

Your petitioners also beg leave to represent—

That contrary to the intention of the legislature, and to the prejudice of our curers of fish as well as of the revenue, a fraudolent practise begins to prevaill whereby forreigners and others not inhabitants of Great Britain doe receive bounty in some of the western parts of Scotland & in Shetland on fish which they catch with their own vessells in our seas and cure with their own salt on our shores; and this wee humbly conceive is owing to a defect in the oath of the exporter of fish as it now stands.

That the extending and improving of the British fishery, as well as the making of good salt at home, seems to be much checked by the restrictions which the laws have laid on the curers of fish in North Britain, without any apparent reason for the distinction made between them and the curers of fish in South Britain, for the latter may use any salt whatever free of excise and yet be intitled to the same bounty on exporting their fish whatever salt they be cured with; but in North Britain no bounty is allowed on any fish exported unless they were cured only with forreign salt without any mixture of British or Irish

salt; and as the law now stands, if cured with Scotch made salt, the excise must be paid down on taking it from the salt works, which cannot afterwards on exportation of the fish be drawn back. EDINBURGH. 20 November 1753.

That the herrings regularly cured in North Britain with fforreign salt only, if sent coast ways to any part of South Britain cannot be there landed for exportation, which is a great discouragment to the open boat fishery and to trade in general.

That tho the best cod, ling, and tusk in the world, as well as excellent salmon, are caught upon the coasts of North Britain, yet as the laws now stands, none of them are importable into South Britain, either for exportation if cured with forreign salt, or for home consumption if cured with Scotch made salt, tho the difference of excise betwixt the Scotch & English made salt, which is two shillings & four pence pr. bushell, be tendered, which seems to be a manifest disadvantage to both parts of the kingdom.

> Your petitioners therefor most humbly pray that this honble. house will be pleased seriously to consider the premisses, and to take such order therein as to their great wisdom shall seem most meet.

14 December 1753.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinbr., David Flint; Queensferry, George Drummond; Air, Andrew Hunter Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Dumferling, Mr Hugh Forbes; Wigtoun, David Baird. Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee having maturely considered the twelveth act of the last general convention vesting them with conventional powers, and the sederunt of the annual committee of the twenty-third of October last, both relative to the linnen manufactures of this kingdom, and being unanimously of oppinion that it is greatly to the intrest of the state of burrows without loss of time to apply to the legislature for such encouragment to the linnen manufacture as may

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appear most effectual for promoting its solid interest, and being fully satisfy'd how much Andrew Cochran, Esqr., late provost of Glasgow, has that matter at heart, and of his known abilitys often experienced by the burrows, doe therefor appoint him their sole commissioner, to repair to London and in name of the royal burrows to take every measure that shall appear to him most propper for obtaining such parliamentary aid for encouraging the linnen manufactures of this kingdom as he shall judge most for the intrest of that valuable manufacture and most likely to be attended with success; and for that end doe appoint their clerks to expede an ample commission in his favours to be sign'd by the lord provost of Edinburgh, their preses; and recommend it to his lordship to cause affix the seall of the city of Edinburgh thereto, and to write letters to his grace the Duke of Argyle, the honble. Henry Pelham, Esqr., and the several representatives in parliament from Scotland, entreating their countenance to a bill so much for the intrest of that part of the United Kingdom; and it being highly reasonable that a gentleman undertaking an important trust for the common intrest of the burrows should be keept indemnis, doe therefor appoint their agent to impress what money he may call for in his hands, agreeable to the sederunt of the twenty-third of October last, and for that end doe authorize their agent to borrow a sum not exceeding five hundred pounds sterling on the credit of the burrows, to bear @ rent from the date of the advances to be made to the said Mr Cochran from time to time or from the date of the advances to be made to the agent for that effect.

Follows the commission to Provt. Andrew Cochran as it was extended & sign'd by the preses.

Att Edinburgh, the fourteen day of December one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three years, the annual committee of the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland taking into their consideration the twelveth act of the last general convention vesting this committee with conventional powers, in order to take such measures as should appear most propper for attaining the valuable purposes of procuring parliamentary

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encouragment to the linnen manufactures, and the committee being deeply sensible that the linnen manufactures are of the utmost importance to this part of the United Kingdom, and what a fatal blow it might prove to this most valuable branch of commerce (as the bounty on the exportation of coarse linnen determines at the end of this session of parliament) should no suitable encouragment be obtain'd from the legislature to enable the traders to serve our settlements abroad with our own manufactures upon an equall foot with the forreign linnen imported, doe therefor unanimously resolve that a commissioner be without loss of time sent to London in name of the state of burrows, to apply to the legislature for such encouragment as to the linnen manufacture as may appear most effectual for promoting its solide intrest; and being fully satisfy'd how much Andrew Cochran, Esqr., late provost of Glasgow, has that matter at heart, and of his known abilitys often experienced by the burrows, and reposeing an intire confidence in his prudence and discretion, they therefor doe hereby nominat and appoint him their sole commissioner, impowering him to repair to London, and in name of the royal burrows of Scotland to take every lawfull measure that shall appear to him most propper for obtaining such parliamentary aid for encouraging the linnen manufacture of this part of the United Kingdom as he shall judge most for the intrest of that valuable manufacture, and most likely to be attended with success in any application to be made to the legislature in name of the royal burrows of Scotland.

Sign'd in presence & by appointment of the annual committee of the royal burrows, & the seal of the city of Edinbr. is affixt by

Follows the letter to his grace the Duke of Argyle, a coppy whereof was also sent to Henry Pelham, Esqr., lord chancellor of the exchequer.

My Lord Duke,—I'me commanded by the royal burrows of Scotland humbly to recommend to your grace's favour & protection the bearer,

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who has the honour to wait on your grace as commissioner from the royal burrows of Scotland.

The last general convention of burrows, deeply sensible that the taking off the bounty on the exportation of coarse linnen might not only have fatal consequences with regaurd to the linnen manufactury in this country, but greatly tend to the obstructing the civilizing the Highlands, did therefor (seing the bounty as the law now stands determines at the end of this session of parliament) unanimously recommend it to their annual committee to send up one or more commissioners to apply to the legislature for a further continuance of the bounty, or of such encouragment as may enable the traders to export our own manufactures to our own settlements abroad upon an equal foot with the forreign linnen imported.

Mr Cochran is unanimously pitch'd upon for this service, & I am directed by the annual committee of burrows, as their preses, humbly to recommend him to your grace's countenance.

I beg leave to assure your grace that the state of burrows here have the most gratefull sense of your grace's great & good offices in favour of trade, and that wee would not give yow any trouble in a session of parliament which wee see the ministry are verry much in earnest to have a short one, if the necessity of the affair did not require it. If some salutary measure is not taken in this affair before the session end, all that has been done towards introduceing manufactures, particularly into the Highlands, may prove abortive, and this trade, which was lately in a hopefull way, be knockt on the head.—I have the honour to be, my lord, your grace's most humble servant.

The same day the preses acquainted the committee that beside the commission given to Provt. Andrew Cochran it would be also necessary to grant an attorney to a black person, to be fill'd up by Mr Cochran, whom he shall think fitt to imploy, to subscrive any application that may be made to parliament, and to sollicit and carry throw the same in both houses as he shall be directed. Which being considered by the

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committee, they approve of the draught of the said letter of attorney, and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name, & the seall of the city of Edinbr. to be affixt thereto, and of which letter of attorney the tenor follows:—

Wee, the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland, considering that by the twelveth act of the last general convention wee were vested with conventional powers to follow out such measures as shall appear most propper for attaining parliamentary aid for encouraging the linnen manufactures, and considering that the bounty on low priced linnen terminats with this session of parliamt., and being deeply sensible that the linnen manufacture is of the utmost importance to this part of the United Kingdom, and that no time ought to be lost on so important an affair for the better enabling our manufacturers for carrying on that valuable branch of trade, and being also sensible of the ability and fitness of

to prosecute and follow furth that affair, doe therefor nominat, constitut, & appoint him to be our true and lawfull attorney to the effect underwritten, giveing and hereby granting to him full power and authority for us and in our name to sign and give in to parliament a petition for such publick and parliamentary aid to the linnen manufactures as may encourage that valuable branch of commerce at present in soe languishing a state, soe as to enable the manufacturers to supply our own plantations abroad with our own manufactures upon an equall foot with the forreign linnen imported; and wee also hereby impower him to prosecute and follow furth the said application to parliament in both houses untill the final conclusion of that matter, and to doe every thing therein that wee could doe our selves if personally present, promiseing to hold firm and stable all and whatsomever things our said attorney lawfully does or causes to be done in the premisses. In testimony whereof these presents are sign'd by William Alexander, Esqr., present lord provost of the city of Edinbr., our preses, by our appointment, and the seall of the city of Edinbr. is hereto affixt, att Edinburgh, this fourteen day of December one thousand seven hundred & fifty-three years,

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and of the reign of our soveraign lord, King George the Second, the twenty-seventh year.

19 December 1753.

Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint; Air, Andrew Hunter; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Queensferry, George Drummond; Dumferling, Mr Hugh Forbes; Wigtoun, David Baird.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter from the magistrats of Campvere, incloseing a coppy of a memorial given in by them to the States of Zealand relative to the Scots staple contract now subsisting between the royal burrows and the town of Camphere, and relative to the schem now intended for opening a free port in the province of Holland, &ca., which if obtain'd would evidently be hurtfull to the Scots merchants tradeing to Campvere. Which letter and the inclosed memorial being read to the committee, they appoint the conservator to return an answer to the said letter in name of the committee, thanking the magistrats of Campvere for their care in preserving the staple contract, and desireing them to continue their endeavours for that purpose.

20 February 1754.

Sederunt.

William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Dumferling, Mr Hugh Forbes; Wigtoun, David Baird; Queensferry, George Drummond.

Report of Provt. Cochran's negotiation at London.

The which day the preses laid before the committee two letters which he had received from Andrew Cochran, late provost of Glasgow, the one, dated at London the seventeenth of January last, giving an accompt of what he had done in the affair of the British linnen committed to him by the burrows, with the coppy of an agreement or resolution enter'd into by the agents for the English, Scots, and Irish manufacturers

of linnen, and the other, dated at Glasgow the fifteenth current, incloseing an accompt of the expence he had been at in London in negotiating that affair and in his journey, amounting to one hundred and thirty-five pounds seven shillings and six pence sterling, beside the price of a chaise which he had left at Mr Homes, coachmaker, to be disposed of as the committee shall direct; and the committee having also heard a letter from his grace the Duke of Argyle relative to the linnen manufactures and Mr Cochran's behaviour in that matter, they unanimously approve of Mr Cochran's conduct in the affair committed to him, and find his expences are moderatly stated; but as he has stated nothing for his trouble, the committee referr the whole to the consideration of the next general convention, and appoint the agent to cause the chaise to be valued and thereafter to dispose thereof not under that value, and to charge himself with the price of it in his next accompt.

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Report of Provt. Cochran's negotiation at London.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

3 July 1754.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1754.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, David Flint & James Russell; Perth, James Crie; Dundee, Andrew Wardroper; Aberdeen, James Morison; Stirling, John Jeffrey; Linlithgow, Allan Wauch; St Andrews, James Lumsdean; Glasgow, John Brown; Air, Thomas Garvine; Hadington, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, James Davidson; Montrose, David Doig; Coupar, the honble. Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, Robert Ferguson; Inverness, John Hossack; Bruntisland, Samuel Charters; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Mollison; Irving, James Boyle; Jedburgh, John Ainsley; Kirkudbright, John Dalyell; Wigtoun, Patrick M'Kie; Pittenweem, Thomas Martine; Dumferling, John Wilson; Anstruther Wester, Robert Hunter; Selkirk, Thomas Chisholm; Dumbarton, James Smollet, Esqr.; Ranfrew, William Somervel; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Christopher Bannantyne; Aberbrothock, Alexander

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1754. Sederunt.

Keith; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Peebles, John Alexander; Craill, James Moncreiff; Culross, Robert Halkerstoun; Banf, Alexander Innes; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forfar, John Ure; Forress, Thomas Brodie; Ruthglen, Robert Spence; North Berwick, Wm. Grant, Esqr., lord advocat; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, George Edmonstoun; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Robertson; Dingwall, Collin M'Kenzie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Kintoir, Mr Robert Bruce; Inverury, Mr Walter Ferguson; Inverbervie, Thomas Chrystie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (twelve burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected William Alexander, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted of the office and gave his oath *de fideli*, he being formerly qualifyed to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

2d. art. of ye missive read.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Committee to revise the commissions, &.

3. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Dumfreise, Bruntisland, Brechin, Kirkudbright, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Banff, Cullen, and Annan as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to the convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by taking the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—James Russell, commissioner, and James Grant and William Gilchrist, assessors for Edinburgh; John Dingwall, assessor for Aberdeen; Archibald Ingram, assessor for Glasgow; James Davidson, commissioner for Dysert; & Willm. Johnstoun, assessor for Annan.

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Report of the committee on the commissions.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard read & considered the commissions of the burghs of Linlithgow, St Andrews, Hadington, Anstruther Easter, Inverness, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Pittenween, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Peebles, Culross, Forfar, Forress, Ruthglen, North Berwick, Lauder, Kilrenny, Lochmabin, Dingwall, Kintore, Inverbervie, and Stranraer, were of oppinion that the whole of the said commissions both as to the commissioners and their assessors should be sustain'd. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report sustaining of the commissions; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—John Frazer, assessor for Inverness; James Lumsdean, commissioner for St Andrews; John Duncanson, assessor for St Andrews; Robert Clerk, assessor for Linlithgow; Thomas Chisholm, commissioner for Selkirk; Alexander Wedderburn, assessor for Dumferling; and John Mollison, junior, commissioner for Brechin.

Act anent the missive dues read.

5. The same day the thirty-ninth article of the convention, 1749, anent giveing of money or increasing the missive dues upon the first motion, was presented to the preses and publickly read according to appointment.

Act appointing the agent to pay to John Crawfoord's accott.

6. The same day there was presented by the agent to the convention an accompt of expences due to John Crawfoord, sollicitor in London, expended by and due to him for solliciting the bankrupt act last session of parliament, amounting to fifty-nine pounds two shillings ten pence sterling, which accompt had been by the convention in July 1751 remit to the annual committee that year, but as the last annual committee had no powers from the convention, 1753, to order payment of the said accompt, they therefor could not proceed upon the same. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, & Bruntisland, or any three of them,

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1754.

to consider the said accompt and report to the convention their oppinion thereanent.

Eodem die post meridiem.

The agent to pay to Mr John Crawfoorde £59, 2s. 10d. str.

7. The committee to whom it was remitted to consider the accompt of expences due to John Crawford, sollicitor at London, concerning the bankrupt bill, reported that they found the same reasonably stated and right sum'd, amounting to fifty nine pounds two shillings and ten pence sterling, and therefor were of oppinion the same should be paid by the agent on a propper discharge. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and appoint their agent to pay the same accordingly.

Commissions approven.

8. The same day the convention having heard read the commission from the burgh of Craill appointing James Moncreiff of Sauchop, Esquire, their commissioner, and the commission from the burgh of Elgin to Patrick Duff, writer to the signet, to be their commissioner, as also the commission from the burgh of Queensferry appointing Robert Dick, one of the baillies of the said burgh to be their commissioner, they approve of the said commissions; and James Moncreiff, Esqr., qualifyed himself to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance.

Articles of the missive continued.

9. The same day the convention having heard read the general annual missive, they approve of the whole heads & clauses thereof and appoint the same to be continued as heads of the next missive, except the eighteenth article relative to the tax roll, which the convention resolved to take under their consideration at their dyet to-morrow afternoon.

Remit to the annl. committee anent the unfree traders.

10. The same day the convention considering that notwithstanding the many laws and acts of parliament made in favours of the royal burrows and burghs of barrony and regality accepting of the communication of trade, yet in many different parts of the kingdom foreign trade is carryed on by persons living without the burrows and not subjected to the burdens in consideration of which the exclusive priviledge of forreign

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Remit to the annl. committee anent the unfree traders.

trade was granted to the royal burrows, and that no remedy in law yet devised had been found effectual for suppressing these unfree traders or subjecting them in payment of any part of the tax roll, the convention therefor took under their consideration some clauses that had been drawn at the appointment of the burrows by council learned in the law, with intention to apply to parliament in order to have these clauses ingrossed in the land tax bill; and having heard them read, they appoint the same to be marked in their presence by the preses, and remitted to their annual committee with conventional powers to take the most propper measures for obtaining the aid of the legislature in terms of the said clauses, or such other as the committee shall think most propper for that purpose.

Remitt to the annl. committee to bring the weights and measures to an uniformity.

11. The same day the convention considering the great advantage it would be to trade to have the weights and measures of this kingdom adjusted to the legal standart, and being sensible that tho this matter has for some time stood an head of the annual missive yet nothing has been effectually done for obtaining so valuable a purpose, and it being reported that the several shirriff deputs of Scotland have for some time been deliberating on the most effectual means to bring about ane uniformity of weights and measures, the convention did and hereby doe remit to the annual committee the consideration of this affair, and recommend it to them to correspond with the shirriffs on that subject in order if possible to accomplish soe good a design, and to report their dilligence to the next convention; and in the mean time authorize their preses to write to all the burrows in Scotland recommending it earnestly to them to transmitt without delay to the annual committee to be named by this convention an exact account of their weights and measures, and what proportion they respectively bear to the legal standard by the law of Scotland before the Union.

Trustees' report, &., presented.

12. The same day there was presented to the convention by the secretary to the trustees for fisherys and manufactures a coppy of the report made by the saids commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1754.

Trustees' report, &., presented.

last; as also George Innes, the deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders for the said year preceeding Christmas last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

Agent's accotts. presented.

13. The same day there was presented to the convention by Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, his accompts of unfree trade and missive dues. The convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth, Glasgow, Montrose, and Bruntisland to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'cloak & audit and examine these accompts and report to the convention.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

14. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, did unanimously approve of their conduct, and appoint their preses to return thanks to the committee for their great care in dischargeing the trust reposed in them. Upon reading the proceedings of the committee, it was observed by some of the members that Mr Cochran, late provost of Glasgow, had remarkably distinguished himself in the service of his country in negotiating the intended act of parliament for the encouragment of the linnen manufacture, as appear'd from the acurat accounts of his transactions at London with the ministry; upon which a motion was made and seconded by all the considerable burrows that tho Mr Cochran was unwilling to accept of any gratuity for his extraordinary trouble in conducting that affair, yet it appeared a duty becomeing the honour of the convention to signify their sense of his great services by some publick mark of their esteem which might remain with his family, such as a genteel present in plate with a propper inscription, to be devised with the annual committee. It was also motioned that the same powers as last year should be again conferred on the annual committee for carrying into execution a bill for an act of parliament for the encouragment of the linnen trade agreeable to the plan formerly proposed; and that the annual committee should be also authorized to

Annl. committee's powers continued for the linning, the staple, & the whale fishing.

take every propper measure for securing the observance of the staple contract, both by addressing the Princess of Orange, Governante, and burgo masters of Campvere; and in general that the annual committee should be authorized to send one or more commissioners to London, as they shall see cause, for procuring an act for promoteing the linnen trade and the other publick proposalls for the intrest of the state of burrows contain'd in former acts, and particularly in the tenth and eleventh acts of this convention. All which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accompts, to be reported by them in writing to-morrow at eleven o'cloak before noon, as also how to obtain the punctual payt. of the bounty on the whale & herring ffishings, &ca.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1754.

Annl. committee's powers continued for the linning, the staple, & the whale ffishing.

4 July 1754.

[15. Agent's accompt of unfree trade approven. 16. Agent's accott. of missive dues approven.]

17. The same day the convention having heard read a commission from the town of Dumbarton in favours of James Smollet of Bonhill, Esqr., as their commissioner, and an other from the burgh of Coupar in favours of the honble. Mr James Lesslie, advocat, their commissioner, and a third commission from the burgh of Whithorn in favours of Hugh Hathorn of Castlewig and Hugh Hathorn, mercht., and late baillie of Edinbr., as his assessor, they approve of the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

18. The same day there was presented to the convention a petition from the burgh of Jedburgh seting furth that the general convention, anno 1750, in regaurd of the decayed state of this burgh, were pleased to order the sum of twenty pound sterling to be paid them towards the reparation of its prison and town house, and declared that the burgh's further releif should be taken under consideration how soon the tax roll was opened, for which purpose the eighteenth article of the missive that year touching the state of this burrow was ordered to be continued; that by some mistake this article of the missive has been

Jedburgh a head of the missive.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1754.

Jedburgh a head of the missive.

omitted in the last year's missive, and therefor pray'd such releif therein as the convention should think propper. Which having been considered by the convention, they of new declair that the furder releiff of this burgh should be taken under consideration how soon the tax roll should be opened, and appoint this to be a head of the next missive.

Report anent Provt. Cochran delay'd.

19. The same day the committee appointed by the fourteenth article of this convention to consider the motion relative to Provost Cochran for his good services at London with regaurd to the linnen trade and the several other matters therein particularly mentioned, gave in their report. Which being read, the convention delay'd the further consideration thereof till the afternoon sederunt.

[20. Horning agt. deficients.]

Petition for the trades of Glasgow remitted.

21. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a petition from the deacon conveener and other deacons of the incorporated trades of Glasgow in behalf of themselves and other incorporations, as also a memorial for the incorporations of the city of Edinburgh sign'd by their conveener, and an address from the incorporated trades of Coupar presented by their commissioner, representing the inconveniencys likely to arise, and which in part had already arisen, from a clause in an act of parliament past in the twenty-fourth year of his present Majesty, enacting that every maker of heckels, spinning wheels, reels, weavers' looms, and weaving reeds, every weaver and manufacturer of linnen, flaxen, or hempen cloath, or hecklers or dresser of flax or hemp, is authorized to exercise their respective crafts or trades within any city, town, incorporation, burgh, or place in Scotland without any lett or hindrance, and without being chargable with payment of any entry money or other duty whatsomever for following such trade; from which it appear'd apparent that not only the powers of these incorporations were likely to suffer, but apprehended that unskilfull persons might bring a disreputation on the manufactures of our country; that in effect by this clause the incorporations of weavers were dis-

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1754.

Petition for the trades of Glasgow remitted.

solved, which in time might be made a precedent for destroying the whole incorporations in Scotland, and therefor concluding that the convention should appoint a propper application to parliament for having the aforsaid clause repeall'd or amended, and to grant such assistance and releif to the incorporations as the convention should think meet. Which being fully deliberated upon by the convention, and having also heard read the proceedings of the last convention and their annual committee on this subject, the convention did and hereby doe remit the whole to the consideration of their annual committee, and recommend it to them to correspond with the several burrows in order to know what inconveniencys they have felt in consequence of the said act of parliament; and appoint their preses to write to the several burrows to transmit without loss of time to the annual committee exact lists of all the persons who have set up in their respective towns in virtue of the sd. act, distinguishing if any or how many have claim'd that priviledge in virtue of having served his Majesty in the army or fleet, and to suggest such alterations and improvements of the said clause as may appear to them most conducive to the intrest of the royal burrows and the incorporated trades in this kingdom; and they authorize their annual committee, incase they shall find sufficient materials and think it adviseable, to instruct such commissioners as may be at London for obtaining the aid of the legislature for the encouragment of the linnen trade and other publick intrests of the burrows to apply to parliament for a repeal or improvement of the abovementioned clause of the act in the twenty-fourth of his present Majesty; and that the committee may have all propper information, and each member may have an opportunity of being present, the convention appoint the committee to be call'd by an advertisment in the Edinbr. newspapers fourteen days before their different meetings on this subject, except the first meeting immediatly after the riseing of this convention.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Tax roll continued till July 1755.

22. The convention having resumed the consideration of the

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1754. Tax roll continued till July 1755.

eighteenth article of the missive relative to the tax roll, according to yesterday's appointment, after some reasoning agreed to continue it for one year longer untill July 1755, soe that the tax roll falls to be considered by the next general convention.

Agent to pay sallarys and gratuities.

23. The same day the convention unanimously agree to continue the present establishment, and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterling of sallary; to Wm. Grant, Esqr., his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, five pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pound sterl. of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own & his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pound sterling; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pound sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, deput clerk, twenty pound sterling of sallary; to Archibald Blair, as recorder, thirty pound sterling for sallary & writings; to John Middlemist, burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary, and four pound sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk to the burrow aeque, sixty pound Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to Patrick Borthwick, his under keeper and cryer, eighteen pound Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pound Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pound Scots; to Ann Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, sixty pound Scots of supply dureing her life.

After reading the establishment, a motion was made by the commissioner from the burgh of Dundee that an agent resideing at London should be named by the convention with the sallary of twenty-five pound st. yearly in use to be given to their former agent for takeing care of the common affairs of the burrows, and that he the rather insisted on

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1754.

this motion, observing that since the agent was superceded a few years ago, the burrows had been put to a much more considerable expence in sending agents to London to manadge their affairs. The convention delayed the consideration of this motion till to-morrow forenoon.

Act anent Prot. Cochran & remit to the annl. committee anent the linning, whale, & herring fisherys, &ca.

24. The same day the committee to whom the motion was remitt to consider what mark of publick esteem the convention should conferr on Mr Cochran, late provost of Glasgow, for his good services at London in treating with the ministry in order to procure the aid of the legislature for the encouragment of the linnen manufactures in Scotland, with the proposal to vest the annual committee with conventional powers for carrying into execution the intention of the last convention with regaurd to the linnen trade, the procureing propper clauses to be insert in the land tax bill for securing the priviledges of the burrows against the illegal incroachments of unfree traders, for concerting the propper means to bring about an uniformity of weights and measures, and takeing propper precautions for securing the observance of the staple contract, and for obtaining the regular and punctual payment of the bountys and encouragments granted by the goverment upon the whale and herring fisherys, &ca., unanimously reported as their oppinion that the activity and zeall of Mr Cochran for the intrest of his country, his acuracy and address in manadging the trust committed to him and paveing the way for procureing an act of parliament for encouraging the linnen manufactures, merits some distinguishing mark of the convention's gratitude and esteem, and that it would be becomeing the honour of the convention to order a handsom present in plate with a propper inscription to remain with his family, but suggested that this may be superceded till after the ensueing session of parliament, and that in the mean time the convention should vest their annual committee with conventional powers in order to obtain the aid of the legislator for the encouragment of the linnen manufactures in Scotland, and for that end that they should be authorized to send Mr Cochran to London with some propper person as his assistant, if he

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1754.

Act anent Prot. Cochran & remit to the annl. committee anent the linning, whale, & herring fisherys, &ca.

desires any; and incase of his declineing that service, that the committee be impower'd to send some other propper commissioner to London, and the agent authorized to borrow a sum for defraying the expence not exceeding five hundred pound sterl., to bear intrest from the several advances, and the committee impower'd to instruct their commissioners to use their intrest to obtain some propper clause or clauses to be insert in the land tax bill or otherways to secure the intrest of the burrows against unfree traders; and that the annual committee if matters shall be ripe and they shall see cause should also be authorized to instruct their commissioners to concurr in any bill that may be devised for procureing an act of parliament establishing the uniformity of weights & measures so highly necessary for preventing impositions & confusions in trade, and to take the most effectual means for obtaining the regular & punctual payment of the bountys and encouragments granted by the goverment upon the whale and the herring fishings, &ca., in all which Mr Cochran's services may be of singular use to the burrows and merit the more ample mark of their esteem; and furder reported their oppinion that the convention should impower their annual committee to take all propper measures for secureing the observance of the staple contract, either by addressing the Princess of Orange, Governante of the United States of Holland, and the burgo masters of Campvere in name of the convention, or take such other measures as the committee shall judge most adviseable for secureing to our country the advantages of the staple contract. Which being maturely considered, the convention did and hereby doe approve of the said report in all its heads and clauses, and in the terms thereof remit, ordain, & enact accordingly, and did & hereby doe invest their annual committee with conventional powers for carrying into execution the several matters contain'd in the said report for the publick intrest.

Petition for the councillors, &., in Innerkeithing.

25. The same day having heard a petition for some councillors, burgeses, gildbrether, and freemen of the incorporat trades in the burgh of Innerkeithing, complaining that contrary to law the annual election

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1754.

Petition for the councillors, &., in Innerkeithing.

of councillors was superceded, those once elected continued during life, and their numbers arbitrarly increased as might best serve the privat intrest of those in power, whereby the freedom of election of the said burgh was altogether destroyed, and the town's revenue of the burgh was altogether destroyed, and the town's revenue and common good in many instances much decay'd, therefor praying that the convention would consider the premisses and give such redress as should seem meet to the wisdom of the convention. After some reasoning how far the applications to the convention was compitent, the furder consideration of this petition was delayed till to-morrow, and the partys complain'd on allowed to give in answers thereto.

Agent to concurr with Anstruther Easter agt. John Lowis.

26. The same day there was read a memorial for the magistrats and councill of the burgh of Anstruther Easter, setting furth that John Lows, a single privat burges, had brought a reduction of the election of the magistracy, containing also a declarator that no person should enjoy the office of baillie of that burgh for longer space than one year together, and had put the community to a considerable expence; that the memorialist conceived it against the intrest of society and subversive of good order that a single person should take upon him to call the publick proceedings in question when it was not pretended that any one individual was hurt; that the proces was still in dependance and the memorialists endeavouring to obtain an alteration of the Lord Ordinary's interlocutor, finding that the baillies of the said burgh ought to be changed annually, being apprehensive that the said judgment (if not reversed) might be attended with inconveniencys to their burgh; but in the meantime thought it their duty to lay the case before the honble. convention in order to such advice & assistance as they should judge propper. All which being considered by the convention, and that the said John Lows had not compeared before them, they therefor authorized and appointed their agent in name of the royal burrows to give his council and concurrance to the magistrats and councill of the burgh of Anstruther Easter in carrying on their defence before the Court of Session.

5 July 1754.

EDINBURGH, 5 July 1754.

George Ross chosen agent for the r. burrows at London.

27. The which day the convention having reassumed the consideration of the motion made last sederunt for choising an agent for the royal burrows resideing at London, and Mr George Ross, sollicitor at London, being proposed as a fitt person, and the question being putt whether or not an agent should be named, and if Mr Ross should be the person, it was unanimously agreed to that Mr Ross should be agent; and he was & hereby is accordingly chosen to be agent for the royal burrows at London dureing the pleasure of this or any subsequent convention, with power to him to agent in all cases & causes at London in which the royal burrows have any concern according as he shall be directed by the convention or their annual committees from time to time, and they give & grant to him a sallary of twenty-five pound sterling yearly dureing his continuance in the said office, and appoint a commission to be extended to him in the above terms.

The petition for Inverkeithing & ansrs. referr'd to ye annl. committee.

28. The same day the convention having resumed the consideration of the petition of the town councillors, burgeses, gildbrether, & freemen of the incorporat trades in the burgh of Inverkeithing, and answers having been given in thereto in name of Mr John Cunningham of Balbugie, advocat, provost of the said burgh, for himself and in name of the other magistrats & council of the same, which was read, and which petition & answers having been considered by the convention, they remit the same to the consideration of the annual committee, with power to them to examine into the several facts therein set forth and endeavour to agree the partys, and for that end to call them before the committee and, if they agree, to submit the whole matters complained of to the annual committee; they are hereby impower'd finally to determine therein, and incase one of the partys shall agree to submit the matters in dispute and the other party refuse soe to doe, then & in that case the committee are impower'd to authorize the agent to concurr with the party willing to submit.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1754.

Petn. for the gildry of Inverness remitted to ye annl. committee.

29. The same day there was a petition presented in name of the gildry and councill of the burgh of Inverness, seting furth amongst other things that one Smyth, who belongs to no incorporation nor is intitled to the priviledge of a trafficking burges in any burgh, having imported a large cargo of forreign goods to Inverness, and having sold some and offered the rest to sale contrary to the acts of parliament and resolutions of the convention made against unfreemen buying and selling, the gildry of Inverness proceeded to seize & escheat the goods; that of these proceedings Mr Smyth, who the petitioners have reason to beleive is supported by his brethern unfreemen traders, has brought a suspension and reduction before the Court of Session; that as the decision of this question is of the utmost consequence to the freedom of the royal burrows, and therefor worthy of the strictest attention, the petitioners humbly submitted to the convention's wisdom if it might not be propper and for the general intrest of all the tradeing burrows to direct their agent to concurr in defending the burgh of Inverness, and to assist in the point of expences to be laid out by them in the saids proceses as the petition bears. Which having been read and considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee to enquire into the facts above set forth, and if found to be of verity, with power to them to appoint the agent to concurr in the defence of the above processes.

The acts of the conservator's court declair'd to be reducable befor the suprem court here.

30. The same day it being represented in the convention that a doubt arose whether the judgments of the conservator's court at Campvere were final or could be revised by the suprem courts here, and the conservator being present declaired that all judgments given in his court could be and were frequently revised by the supreme courts of this part of the kingdom, and the convention were of oppinion that all & every judgment of the conservator's court may be challenged by a reduction or suspension before any of the supreme courts here.

Arrears of cess presented.

31. The same day George Innes, deputy receiver general, presented to the convention a list of the burrows who are in arrear for cess for the year 1753 & preceedings, which was read and ordered to lye

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1754.

upon the table for the perusall of the members; and the convention recommend to each of the burrows who are in arrear to pay up what they are respectively resting.

Annl. committee chosen.

32. The same day the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Irving, Wigtoun, Dumferling, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Banf, Whithorn, Forress, North Berwick, Cullen, Kilrenny, Annan, Queensferry, Inverury, & Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving of this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming & concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admitt of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they shall have speciall authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention one thousand seven hundred & thirty-four years; and

the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on the sixth instant at eleven of the clock in the forenoon in the laigh councill house of Edinburgh, and declair that every member of this convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of their preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting on any emergency.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1754. Annl. committee chosen.

33. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet & be held att the burgh of Edinburgh upon the second Wednesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Convention dissolved.

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

6 July 1754.

Edinbr., David Flint, dean of gild, and James Russell, dn. conveener; Bruntisland, George Drummond, Esqr.; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Dumferling, Mr Wedderburn; Irving, James Boyle.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1754. Sederunt.

The which day the annual committee of the royal burrows elected William Alexander, Esquire, present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses, but as his lordship is necessarly absent this dyet, and that George Drummond, Esqr., commissioner for Bruntisland, has the honour to be known to her royal highness the Princess of Orang and to the magistrats of Campvere, to whom the committee are to write in favour of the staple port, therefor the committee made choise of the said George Drummond to be their preses to this sederunt.

Preses chosen.

Draught of a letter to the Princess of Orange and magistrats of Campvere approven.

The same day the committee having heard the several remits of the last general convention read in their presence, and particularly the

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1754.

Draught of a letter to the Princess of Orange and magistrats of Campvere approven.

twenty-fourth act anent the staple port & observance of the staple contract, the commissioner for Edinburgh presented the draught of a letter to her royal highness the Princess of Orang, and an other letter to the rt. honble. the magistrats of Campvere, both relative to the Scots priviledges at the staple port, which may be hurt incase a Porto Ffranco be established in the Netherlands. Which two letters being read in presence of the committee, they approve thereof and appoint their preses to sign them in their name, and to cause affix the seall of the city of Edinburgh thereto, and to deliver them to the conservator to be by him transmitted to his deput, and recommend to him to be present at the delivery thereof; and of which letter to the Princess of Orange the tenor follows:—

May it please your Royal Highness,

The honourable magistrats of your royal highnesses town of Campvere having laid before us several letters and memorialls representing the utter ruine and destruction of their town incase the plan of a limited Porto Franco, which is at present upon the carpet, should be approved of by the respective members and colledges of admiralty of the republick, as this plan will in effect deprive them of or frustrat these advantages they & wee thought abundantly secured by the staple contract, wee have therefor taken the liberty of addressing ourselves to your royal highness, in concurrence with the magistrats of Campvere, intreating your highnesses countenance and influence in order to preserve our priviledges and the benefits of the Scots trade whatever alterations your highness and the States may in your great wisdom think propper to make in the general course of trade in the United Provinces, and that these exceptions with respect to the articles of staple goods may still be reserved as they are exprest in the instructions of the magistrats of Campvere to their deputies, bearing date the 7th of February 1754.

While wee think ourselves bound in consequence of our contract to insist upon these exceptions, wee have reason to think they will be

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1754.

granted with little difficulty, as none of the members of the republick in any of their memorials or advices have shewn that the priviledge of the Scots trade in Campvere in the event of the limited Porto Franco's taking place could doe any harm or be any impediment to the success of the general trade of the republick, altho these priviledges are of no smal value to this country and of the utmost consequence to your royal highness' loyal and affectionat town of Campvere.

Wee are oblidged, from that concern and attention due from us to the product and manufactures of Scotland, from our fidelity to the staple contract and our regard to the partys interested in it, to beg that your royal highness will use your intrest with the States of the United Provinces and colledges of admiralty to secure the continuance of the present dutys upon staple goods, according to the above instructions, and wee humbly intreat your royal highness that nothing may be done upon this occasion which may either infringe the priviledges or lessen the value of a contract so ancient, so frequently and so lately renewed by your royal highnesses illustrious consort of immortal memory in the year 1748. Wee doubt not but your highness will pay a particular regard to a treaty of commerce and trade which the Princes of Orange have always thought worthy of their countenance, and which deserved their attention so far as to become contracting parties themselves, both before and ever since the happy union of the United Provinces.—Wee are, madam, your royal highness's most devoted & most obedient humble servants.

Edinbr., 6th July 1754. Sign'd in name & by appointment of the royal burrows of Scotland. Signed Geo. Drummond, preses.

Follows the letter to the magistrats of Campvere.

Right Honourable,—Wee have received several memorialls, letters, and instructions to your deputies, relateing to the plan of a limited

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1754.

Porto Franco, and we can't but approve of your zeal and dilligence in attending to the intrest of your town and the priviledges of the staple contract happily subsisting between us, for which wee return you our hearty thanks, and assure yow that whatever concerns the good of your town, the maintenance of the priviledges of the staple port, or advancing our mutual benefit and amity shall not be wanting on our part.

Wee have wrote of the same date to her royal highness that wee might shew how heartily wee enter into these measures yow have proposed to preserve your town from that ruine which threatens it, and that wee may continue in possession of those advantages which Scotland enjoys by the contract, and wee think it both a just and a natural consequence of it that the goods of the same species mentioned in the contract shall continue to pay the present inward duties, as wee would otherways be deprived of what the laws of Scotland and the royal burrows have always had in view by oblidging all our product and manufactures denominated staple and exported for the Low Countrys to be landed in Campvere.

If yow find any difficulty with respect to the article of wool, a great deall of which the republick is oblidged to import for the use of their manufactures, and the exportation of which by the laws of this country is expressly prohibited, wee shall allow this article to be excepted from paying of the inward duty as the States shall think propper, provydeing it be agreeable to yow and the partys concern'd with the contract on your side of the water, so long as the laws of our country prohibiting the export of wool shall continue.

Wee have instructed the lord conservator to receive from yow what furder letters & memorialls yow may think propper to transmit from time to time in order to finish this important affair, that he may concurr with yow in taking such steps as may effectually preserve and maintain our mutual priviledges, increase and promote the trade, strengthen and confirm more & more that harmony and freindship which has so long subsisted, and wee hope shall always continue between us, the

honble. magistrats of Campvere, and all concern'd in the staple contract. —Wee are, my lords, your most faithfull freinds & neighbours. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1754.

Edinbr., 6th July 1754. Sign'd in name & by appointment of the royall burrows of Scotland by Geo. Drummond, preses.

14 November 1754.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and William Gilchrist; Air, Andrew Hunter; Dumferling, Mr Wedderburn; Lanerk, William Wilson; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Forres, Mr Thos. Brodie; Inverury, Walter Ferguson. Sederunt.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that agreeable to the resolution of the last general convention he had wrote to Andrew Cochran, Esqr., late provost of Glasgow, begging of him to set about the executing the commission from the royal burrows and repair to London, there to solicite for such parliamentary aid & encouragment to the linnen manufactures of Great Britain as might save that valuable branch of trade from intire ruine, & for prosecuting the other purposes mentioned in the twenty-fourth act of the last general convention, & desireing to know of him if he would choose to have any body joined with him in the commission; and that Mr Cochran had accepted of the trust, and signifyed that it might be of great use if Mr William Tod of Edinburgh was also imployed in this service, and sent up immediatly to prepare matters, because his affairs would not admit of his going up sooner than Christmas; he also acquainted the committee that he had also spoke with the said Mr Tod, and prevaill'd with him to accept of that imployment in conjunction with Provost Cochran, and to repair to London immediatly to prepare matters untill Provost Cochran should come up to London about Christmas next. Which being considered by the committee, and they being satisfyed of the skill, dilligence, & activity of these gentlemen for negotiating the important affairs above mentioned, Provost Cochran and Wm Tod to repair to Londn.

EDINBURGH. 14 November 1754.

Provost Cochran and Wm. Tod to repair to Londn.

and of their hearty good will to serve their country in every respect, therefor the annual committee, by virtue of the conventional powers granted to them by the last general convention, did & hereby doe grant full power and commission to the said Andrew Cochran and Mr William Tod to repair to London with all convenient dispatch, and there to sollicit for such parliamentary aid to the linning manufactures of Great Britain as can be obtain'd, as also to apply for a propper clause to be insert in the land tax bill for secureing the priviledges of the burrows against the illegal incroachments of unfree traders, and to take the most effectual means for obtaining the regular & punctual payment of the bountys and encouragments granted by the government on the whale and herring fishings, and also to concurr in any bill that may be devised for procureing an act of parliament establishing the uniformity of weights and measures, soe highly necessary for preventing impositions and confusions in trade, all which are specially recommended to them by the said twenty-fourth act of the last general convention, with power to them to doe every thing that they shall think prudent and necessary for obtaining these valuable ends and purposes, and that at the charge of the royal burrows; and appoint the agent to advance any sum or sums of money that shall be necessary for that purpose not exceeding five hundred pound sterling, to bear intrest to the agent from the several advances untill payment; and appoint the agent furth of the said sum to pay to the said Mr Tod the sum of one hundred pound sterling on his recept for the purposes abovementioned, and appoints the clerks to expede a commission to them accordingly.

Agent to advance 500 lit. sterl.

The same day the committee appoint their preses to write to his grace the Duke of Newcastle, to his grace the Duke of Argyle, to the right honble. Henry Legg, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the right honble. the Lord Duplin, to the right honble. Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons, and to the representatives in parliament for Scotland, intreating their countenance and assistance to any bill that may be brought into parliament for encouraging the linnen manufactures of this kingdom.

26 November 1754.

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1754. Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and James Grant; Inverness, John Frazer; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Dumferling, Mr Alexr. Wedderburn; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Forress, Thomas Brodie; Lanerk, William Wilson.

Commission to Provt. Cochran & Wm. Tod approven.

The which day the preses laid before the committee the draught of a commission from the annual committee to Andrew Cochran, Esqr., late provost of Glasgow, and Mr William Tod of Edinburgh, merchant, to repair to London and sollicite parliamentary redress upon the different subjects recommended to them. Which commission being read was approved of and appointed to be recorded; whereof the tenor follows:—

The annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland takeing into their consideration the twenty-fourth act of the last general convention, vesting them with conventional powers to send one or two commissioners to London in order to apply to parliament for such parliamentary aid and encouragment to the linnen manufactures of Great Britain as might save that valuable branch of trade from intire ruine, as also to apply for a propper clause in the land tax bill for secureing the priviledges of the burrows against unfree traders, and to take the most effectual means for obtaining the regular and punctual payment of the bountys and encouragments granted by the government to the whale and herring fishings, and also to concurr in any bill that may be devised for procureing an act of parliament establishing the uniformity of weights and measures, soe highly necessary for preventing impositions and confusions in trade, and the committee being deeply sensible that the linnen manufactures are of the utmost importance to this part of the United Kingdom, and that the other purposes abovementioned doe highly concern the nation and the welfare of the state of burrows, and they being also fully satisfyed of the known abilitys, dilligence, and activity of Andrew Cochran, Esqr., late provost of Glasgow, and of Mr William Tod of Edinburgh, merchant, for prosecuting and following furth these valuable purposes abovementioned,

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and of their hearty good will to serve their country in every respect, therefor the committee by virtue of the conventional powers granted to them by the last general convention have nominated, constituted, and appointed, and hereby nominat, constitute, and appoint the saids Andrew Cochran, Esqr., and William Tod as commissioners for the royal burrows of Scotland, to repair to London with all convenient dispatch, and there to take every lawfull measure that shall appear to them most propper for obtaining such parliamentary aid and encouragment to the linnen manufactures of this part of the United Kingdom as can be obtain'd from the legislator, and also to apply for a propper clause in the land tax bill for secureing the priviledges of the royal burrows against smuglers and other unfree traders, and to take the most effectual means for procureing the regular & punctual payment of the bountys and encouragments granted to the whale and herring fishings, and to concurr in any bill that may be devised for procureing an act of parliament to establish an uniformity of weights & measures, so highly necessary for preventing impositions and confusions in trade, all which are particularly recommended by the said twenty-fourth act of the last general convention, with power to them to doe every thing that they shall see necessary and prudent for obtaining these valueable ends and purposes, and that at the charge of the royal burrows; and allow them to expend a sum therein not exceeding five hundred pounds sterling, and appoint the agent to advance the same to them from time to time as it shall be demanded, and appoint this commission to be sign'd by the clerk of the burrows in the form of an extract, & the seall of the city of Edinbr. affixt thereto.

Letters approven.

The same day the preses laid before the committee the draughts of the several letters recommended to him to be wrote to his grace the Duke of New Castle and the other persons of distinction mentioned in the last sederunt. Which being read, the committee approve thereof and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name, to be by him dispatched to Mr George Ross, agent for the royal burrows at London,

and by him delivered to the persons to whom they are severally addressed, or by any other propper conveyance; and of which letters the tenor follows:—

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Letters approven.

Letter to the Duke of New Castle.

To ye Duke of New Castle.

My Lord Duke,—The manufacture of British linnen, as of great importance to the United Kingdom, by the wisdom of parliament has for some years received encouragments, and by his sacred Majesty's paternal care of his subjects been nurs'd, and by those benign influences was brought to great perfection, and the quantity of cloath made increased far beyond expectation.

Led by the hopes of great advantages to arise to privat persons from the growing manufactures, considerable sums of money were advanced, and the expectations of profit, both to the publick and to the privat dealers, were high; but some encouragments having been withdrawn, a damp fell upon the trade which threaten'd intire disappointment to the sanguine hopes conceived; and for that reason the annual convention of the royal burrows of North Britain did last year appoint a gentleman to lay the state of the British linnen manufactory before the parliament, and took the liberty to recommend the affair to Mr Pelham, a true patriot, and then at the head of the treasury.

Mr Pelham, whose memory is and must ever be dear to the royal burrows, did on that occasion advise dropping thoughts of any application the last session, but to apply early to this parliament.

The linnen manufacture being this year in a more decaying condition than it was, the annual convention of burrows judged it incumbent upon them to resume the intentions they formerly had of applying for releif, and have therefor appointed Mr Cochran of Glasgow and Mr Tod of Edinburgh humbly to represent their case to parliament, and thought it their duty to direct these gentlemen in a particular manner to lay the case before your grace, humbly hopeing your grace will be pleased to allow them a favourable hearing while they lay before yow the present unhappy situation of that great branch of trade, and

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To ye Duke of New Castle.

from your grace's known equity and tender regard to the trade of Great Britain, humbly hope yow will take this affair, of so great importance to the United Kingdom, into your consideration, and give the assistance in this application your grace shall think it deserves.—Wee beg leave to assure your grace that wee are, &ca.

Follows letter to the Honble. Henry Legg, Esq., Chancellor of ye Excheqr.

To Henry Leg, Chancellor of the Excheqr.

Sr.,—The principal trade and support of the country for many years past have been the linnen manufacture. It's justly become the object of the parliament's attention, who gave national encouragments to it; these determined at the end of the last sessions, whereby that valuable branch of trade is greatly reduced and in great danger of being intirely ruined.

The royal burrows of North Britain have deputed Mr Cochran of Glasgow and Mr Tod of Edinbr. to sollicit some parliamentary aid to this declining manufacture.

They have ordered these gentlemen particularly to apply to yow, and they have commanded me in their name to beg the favour of yow to permit them to represent to yow the miserable situation of our linnen manufacture; weel assured of your intentions to promote industry and the happiness of Great Britain, they rejoice to think yow have it so much in your power, and humbly hope yow will be pleased to take this affair into your consideration.—I have the honour to be, with the greatest esteem, sr., your most obedient humble servant.

Follows letter to Lord Viscount Dupplin.

To ye Viscount of Dupplin.

My Lord,—The annual convention of the royal burrows of North Britain having again appointed Provost Cochran of Glasgow, and joined Mr Tod of this place in the commission with him, to repair to London, there humbly to represent the case of the linnen manufacture to parliament, I have received their commands to assure your lordship they think with the utmost gratitude of the concern yow have shown, and the great pains yow have taken, to promote this important branch

of trade on many former occasions, and that to us it seems at this critical juncture to require nurseing more than ever.

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To ye Viscount of Dupplin.

The application about it was laid aside last sessions on the assurances given us by Mr Pelham, whose memory will be ever dear to us, that upon early application to this parliament all due regard should be had to it; our agents are directed to wait on your lordship, and wee rest assured yow will hear what they have to represent, and give that assistance to them in this application which yow shall think the great importance of the affair deserves.—I have the honour to be, &ca.

Letter to the Rt. Honble. Arthur Onslow, the Speaker

To ye Speaker of the House of Commons.

Sr.,—The linnen manufacture of Great Britain, as of great importance to the United Kingdom, by the wisdom of parliament has for some years received encouragments by which it has been brought to great perfection, and the quantity of cloath made encreased far beyond expectation.

Led by the hopes of great advantages, considerable sums of money has been imployed in that trade, and the expectations of profit both to the publick and to the privat dealers were high; but these encouragments being to cease at the end of the last session of the last parliament, threw a damp upon the trade which threaten'd it with intire ruine, in this part of the United Kingdom particularly, which the more sensibly affected us as our hopes of success to his Majesty's most gracious endeavours to civilize the Highlands were verry strictly connected with the thriving of this valuable branch of trade.

For these reasons the annual convention of the royal burrows of North Britain appointed a gentleman to repair to London to lay the state of this matter before the parliament last year, but Mr Pelham, then at the head of the treasury, having advised to delay the making any application till the beginning of the present session, and given us assurances that all the due regard which the importance of the matter deserved should then be had to it, it was not brought into the house.

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To ye Speaker of the House of Commons.

The annual convention being sensible that the linnen manufacture this year is in a still more decaying state than it was last, they judged it incumbent on them to appoint Mr Cochran of Glasgow and Mr Tod of Edinbr. humbly to represent the case to parliament, with directions in a particular manner to lay it before yow.

Your known justice and tender regard to the trade of Great Britain, which yow have had more opportunitys to give your country the most convinceing proofs of then any subject before yow ever had, encourages us to hope yow will be pleased to allow them a favourable hearing, and give the assistance to this application which you shall think it deserves.

This is what I am commanded by the royal burrows to give yow the trouble of, and to assure yow wee are, with gratitude for all your good & great services to your country, with the utmost respect, sr., &ca.

Letter to his grace the Duke of Argyle.

To his grace the Duke of Argyle.

My Lord Duke,—The annual convention of the royal burrows being sensible of the consequences of the taking away of the bounty from our course linnen cloath exported, which stood determined at the end of the last session of parliament, thought it their duty last year to send up Provost Cochran of Glasgow to represent the matter to parliament, in order to obtain either the continuance of that bounty or such other aid as the legislature should think fitt to preserve that valuable branch of trade from ruine; but upon Mr Pelham's showing his inclination to have the application about it delayed till early this session, and assureing him that due regaurd should then be had to it, Mr Cochran acquiesced.

This last year's convention no less anxious about this matter, as the country begins to feel actually what was only dreaded the year before, have again commissioned Mr Cochran, and join'd Mr Willm. Tod with him, to lay the matter before the house, and as wee consider your grace as the patron of industry in our country, and have always found yow the encourager and protector of our trade, they have orders to be directed by your grace in the steps they take; this is what I have in charge to

acquaint your grace of, and wee are encouraged by the many instances wee have had of your care of our interests to hope your grace will give all the countenance to their application which yow shall think the importance thereof to the United Kingdom merits.—I have the honour to be, with the utmost respect, may it please your grace, your grace's most obedient humble servant,

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To his grace the Duke of Argyle.

Sign'd Geo. Drummond, preses.

Petition and letters anent the herring ffishing approven.

The same day the preses laid before the committee the scroll of a petition to parliament for redress of the grivances and oppressions under which the open boat herring ffishing does at present labour, under the names of foreland dues, moon light money, and other oppressive exactions, to the great discouragment of this most valuable branch of commerce. Which being read, they approve of the said petition, and authorize their preses in their name to sign the same, and recommend to the agents at London to give their assistance in promoteing the passing of this bill into a law for redress of the grivances therein complain'd of; and accordingly the said bill was sign'd by the preses and order'd to be recorded and transmitted to the agent at London, whereof the tenor follows:—

To the honble. the Commons of Great Britain in parliat. assembled, the petition of the Royal Burrows of Scotland, in behalf of themselves and many others of his Majestie's industrious subjects.

Petn. anent the white herring fishing in open boats.

Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioners being highly sensible of the many important advantages which the United Kingdoms might derive from the British fishery, cannot without a suitable concern observe how much the publick good is obstructed by the various exactions and oppressions, as well as other hardships and difficulties, which has too long cramped one of its most valuable branches, the open boat herring fishery, the great utility whereof sufficiently appears from hence that even in its present distressed condition it mentains many thousands of fishers, artificers, & labourers, with their families, adds considerably

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Petn. anent the white herring fishing in open boats.

to the national wealth by the produce of its fish, and raises an inexhaustible fund of hardy seamen for the publick service.

That the open boat herring fishery would soon become much more beneficial in all these respects if releived from the many hardships under which it now labours, your petitioners humbly presume to lay the same before this honourable house, being encouraged thereto by the declared sense of parliament, and by the vigorous measures lately taken for extending and improving the British fishery.

That the proprietors of some of the isles make each boat pay no less than a guinea, under the title of foreland dues, for the use of their shores, without which the fishermen cannot cure or pack their herrings.

That in several places of the coast each boat is forced to pay from ten to fourty-two shillings sterling for leave to fish, for protection, or for foreland dues.

That in many other places every boat is made to pay one night's fishing per week, which exaction is never less than one-fifth part of all the fisherman's earnings, but comes to much more as often as bad weather or any other accident prevents his catching fish, for he must pay one night's ffishing if he fish but one, and the verry best if he fishes more.

That the fishers suffer still more by the arbitrary and capricious laws which the factors or stewards of gentlemen's estates assume a power of prescribeing on all occasions, contrary to the better judgment and experience of the fishermen, how, when, & where they shall fish; forbid all fishing on some particular nights of the week—nay, some forbid all ffishing dureing the 2d & 3d quarters of the moon, by which means a great part of the season is lost both to the ffishers and the publick—and all this only to comply with the steward's ignorant and superstitious prejudices, or to gratify his avarice by the sale of indulgences to such as can pay for them.

That besides all these customary oppressions the open boat ffishers are often surprized with some new and unexpected demand with which, however unreasonable, their complyance is forced by seizing their boats and nets when they are most wanted.

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Petn. anent the white herring fishing in open boats.

That tho all the grivances here set forth are directly contrary to the laws, and especially to the whole tenor of the 2d act of the 3d session of Queen Ann's 1st parliament, yet as those laws were never duely executed, they are now fallen into such deswetude that the authority of a British parliament seems absolutely necessary to give them any vigour.

That your petitioners moreover humbly apprehend that unless propper penaltys are inflicted on the wilfull obstructers and oppressors of the open boat herring fishery, and unless justice be made everywhere obtainable in a more easy, cheap, and summary way than at present, the laws will continue ineffectuall in those distant parts; as also that one or more superintendants may be appointed over the ffishing, with propper powers for preserving peace and good order among them.

Your petitioners also beg leave to represent—

That contrairy to the intention of the legislature, and to the prejudice of our curers of fish as well as of the revenue, a fraudolent practise begins to prevaill whereby forreigners and others not inhabitants of Great Britain doe receive a bounty in some of the western parts of Scotland and in Shetland on ffish which they catch with their own vessells in our seas and cure with their own salt on our shores, and this wee humbly conceive is owing to a defect in the oath of the exporter of fish as it now stands.

That the extending and improving of the British ffishery, as well as the making of good salt at home, seems to be much checked by the restrictions which the laws have laid on the curers of fish in North Britain, without any apparent reason for the distinction made between them and the curers of fish in South Britain, for the latter may use any salt whatever free of excise and yet be intitled to the same bounty on exporting their ffish whatever salt they were cured with; but in North Britain no bounty is allowed on any fish exported unless they were cured wholly with forreign salt without any mixture of British or Irish salt, and as the law now stands if cured with Scotch made

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Petn. anent the white herring fishing in open boats.

salt the excise must be paid down on takeing it from the salt works, which cannot afterwards on exportation of the fish be drawn back.

That herrings regularly cured in North Britain with fforreign salt only, if sent coast ways to any port of South Britain cannot be there landed for exportation, which is a great discouragment to the open boat fishery and to trade in general.

That tho the best cod, ling, and tusk in the world, as well as excellent salmond, are caught upon the coasts of North Britain, either for exportation, if cured with foreign salt, or for home consumption, if cured with Scotch made salt, tho the difference of excise between the English and Scotch made salt, which is two shillings and four pence pr. bushell, be tendered, which seems to be a manifast disadvantage to both parts of the kingdom.

> Your petitioners therefor most humbly pray that this honble. house will be pleased seriously to consider the premisses, and to take such order therein as to their great wisdom shall seem most meet. Sign'd Geo. Drummond, preses.

The same day the preses laid before the committee ane application made to them by John Forrest and others concern'd in the whale fishery, whereof the tenor follows:—

Unto the Annual Committee of the honble. Convention of Royal Burrows of Scotland at Edinbr., the memorial of the Merchants of Edinburgh and others concern'd in the whale fishery.

Memorial from the merchts. of Edr. concern'd in the whale fishing.

Sheweth,—That by an act of parliament past the 22d of his present Majesty, intitled an act for the further encouragment and enlargment of the whale fishery, &ca., it is provyded that 40 shills. pr. ton bounty shall be paid to those of his Majesty's subjects who shall fit out ships for the whale fishery in terms of the said act, which act is to continue till the 25th of December 1757, and from thence to the end of the than next session of parliament.

In consequence of this act a number of ships have been imployed

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Memorial from the mercts. of Edr. concern'd in the whale fishing.

from the different ports in Scotland, whereby the importation of oyle and bone from foreign parts has been prevented and thereby so much money gained to the country; great numbers of tradesmen and poor labourers are imployed in the course of this trade, it is also a good nursery for hardy seamen, which is a national benefit.

As this terminats so soon, and as so beneficial a trade to the nation may be lost if timeous application to parliament is not made to prolong the term, wee humbly request the committee to write to the respective members of parliament, and instruct their agents at London to promote the joint application of the whale fishers of England and Scotland as a national advantage, and to meet and consult with the London committee such measures as may be most conducive to carry the application into a law. Sign'd, John Forrest, James Stuart, Archd. Angus, Alexr. Brown, William Ruthven, Thomas Hogg. The London committee are Anthony Bacon, John Biggin, John Cliveland, Christopher Muddy, James Manby, Alexr. Black, & John Preswick.

Which memorial being considered by the annual committee, they were of oppinion that the prolongation of the encouragment granted by the government to the whale fishery was necessary to the continuance of that beneficial article of trade in this part of Britain, and therefor they recommend to the agents for the royal burrows now in England to concurr in any measure that the merchants in England shall think conducive to obtain so good and laudable a law.

Letters to the members of parliat. approven.

The same day the preses having represented to the committee that the different objects presently before them were at this juncture the most interesting to the nation and of the utmost importance both to its manufactorys and commerce, he therefor proposed that letters should be wrote by the committee to the haill representatives for Scotland in parliament, both lords & commons, intreating their countenance & assistance to such bills as should be brought into parliament for these valuable purposes; but also that the committee should write to the whole royal burrows of Scotland recommending to them to write to their

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Letters to the members of parliat. approven.

several constituents anxiously to interest themselves and assist in carrying these national concerns to due execution, the committee approve of this proposal; and in regaurd his lordship had intimat his intention to goe to London, they in name of the burrows represented that the publick spirit and disinterestedness he had always shown in every station of life encouraged them without hesitation to depend on his ready assistance when at London to bring the measures proposed to a bearing; his lordship assured the annual committee that he would contribute all in his power to show them that he was a real freind to his country in all its concerns, and a ready and obsequious servant to the royal burrows, and that without any charge to the burrows; and his lordship having presented the draught of these two letters, the committee approve thereof, and appoint the same to be sign'd by him in their name & transmitted with all convenient dispatch, and of which letters the tenor follows:—

Letter to the members of parliamt.

Sr.,—It would be needless particularly to represent to yow the miserable situation which the linnen manufacture in Scotland is in at present. The convention of the royal burrows have deputed Mr Cochran of Glasgow and Mr Tod of Edinbr. to sollicite for parliamentary aid to it, to save this valuable branch of trade from intire ruine; these gentlemen will give yow all the information about it they can, and from your regaurd for the prosperity of Great Britain, they hope yow will seriously consider of how great consequence the support of the linnen manufacture is to this country.

As the royal burrows are verry sensible of the discouragmt. that the open boat herring fishery has these several years laboured under by a variety of oppressive exactions, they thought they were called upon to apply to parliament for redress of these grivances, which they have accordingly done, and as they observe that the encouragment given to the whale fishing, so beneficial to the nation, will in a verry years expire, they have given instructions to their agents at London to concurr in any application that may be made to parliament for a prolongation of the

encouragment given to that valuable branch of trade, and wee flatter our selves that the importance of these different subjects will merit your attention and assistance.—I am, with great respect, sr., your most humble servant.

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1754.

Letter to the Royal Burrows.

Gentlemen,—By direction of the annual committee of the royal burrows I am to remind yow of what past last general convention, when, sensible of the fatal consequences that must attend the withdrawing of the bounty on the linnen manufactory, the convention were unanimous in sending propper persons as their representatives to procure either a continuance of the bounty or some parliamentary aid or redress, soe as to save this once flourishing tho now decaying branch of manufactory in this part of the kingdom.

Letters to ye rl. burrows.

The complaints of the merchants on having the payments of the bountys on the whale & herring fishing so long postponed was an other object that the convention had under their eyes, and it being moved to the annual committee that their agents at London should concurr with the merchants interested in the whale ffishery there in any measure to procure a continuance and prolongation of the laws that give encouragment to such a valuable branch of commerce, the committee for verry obvious reasons assented to what was then proposed and gave directions accordingly.

The herring fishery on the west coast, carryed on in open boats, groan under many discouragments and oppressive exactions, to remedy which the committee authorized their preses to sign a bill to parliament which, if propperly supported, may meet with the success it deserves and prove of great advantage to the country; the agents are also directed to apply to parliament for a clause that will put the priviledges of the royal burrows with regaurd to unfree trade on a less precarious footing, by subjecting every unfreeman to declair on oath the extent of his importation of foreign commodities which are appropriated by law to the royl. burrows.

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Letters to ye rl. burrows.

These are the great objects that the convention & annual committee have had under their view; that as it's beleived at no juncture so various and interesting national concerns ever occurr'd, the annual committee does expect that yow'le with the greatest zeal and anxiety write to your several representatives, recommending to them to give propper attention to what shall be laid before them by the agents for the royal burrows, and all manner of assistance in bringing the purposes proposed to a happy issue. Wishing yow and your community all manner of prosperity, I am, with great regard, gentlemen, &ca.

Geo. Drummond, preses.

12 December 1754.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and James Grant; Inverness, John Frazer; Air, Andrew Hunter; Dumferling, Mr Alex. Wedderburn; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forress, Thomas Brodie; Dingwall, John Dingwall.

Commission to George Ross, agent at Londn., approven.

The which day the preses acquainted the committee that beside the commission given to Provost Andrew Cochran and William Tod, mercht., it would be also necessary to grant an attorney to some fitt person to subscrive any application that may be made to parliament, and to sollicite and carry throw the same in both houses as he shall be directed. Which being considered by the committee, they approve of the draught of the said letter of attorney to be sent to George Ross, Esqr., their agent at London, and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name, and the seall of the city of Edinbr. to be affixt thereto, and of which letter of attorney the tenor follows:—

Wee, the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland, considering that by the twenty-fourth act of the last general convention wee are vested with conventional powers to follow out such measures as shall appear most propper for attaining parliamentary aid for encouraging the linnen manufactures, and considering that the bounty on low

priced linnen terminated with the last session of parliament, and being deeply sensible that the linnen manufacture is of the utmost importance to this part of the United Kingdom, and that no time ought to be lost on so important an affair for the better enabling our manufacturers for carrying on that valuable branch of trade, and being also sensible of the ability and fitness of George Ross of London, Esqr., to prosecute and follow forth that affair, doe therefor nominat, constitut, and appoint him to be our true and lawfull attorney to the effect underwritten, giveing & hereby granting to him full power and authority for us and in our name to sign and give in to parliament a petition for such publick and parliamentary aid to the linnen manufactures as may encourage that valuable branch of commerce, at present in so languishing a state, soe as to enable the manufacturers to supply our own plantations abroad with our own manufactures upon an equal foot with the forreign linnen imported; and wee also hereby impower him to prosecute and follow furth the said application to parliament in both houses untill the final conclusion of that matter, and to doe every thing therein that wee could doe our selves if personally present, promiseing to hold firm & stable all & whatsomever things our said attorney lawfully does or causes to be done in the premisses; in testimony whereof these presents are sign'd by George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edr., our preses, by our appointment, and the seall of the city of Edr. is hereto affixt att Edinbr., this twelveth day of December one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four years, and of the reign of our soveraign lord King George the Second the twenty-eight year.

EDINBURGH. 12 December 1754.

4 February 1755.

Edinburgh, David Flint, commr., chosen preses; Air, Andrew Hunter; Inverness, John Frazer; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay; Lanerk, William Wilson.

Sederunt.

The which day the preses laid before the committee a letter from Messrs Andrew Cochran and Willm. Tod, their commissioners at London,

EDINBURGH. 4 February 1755.

Letters from Prot. Cochran & Wm. Tod.

acquainting him that at the desire of the ministry the bill intended to be brought into parliament in favour of the linnen manufacture was dropt this session, upon assurances that it should get a fair hearing next session of parliament. Which being read, the committee appoint their preses to write to these gentlemen the following answer:—

Gentlemen,—This morning I had a note from Dean of Gild Grant, as follows: I send Messrs Cochran and Tod's letter, addressed to me by mistake, and leave the care of answering it to yow. How soon I perused it, I gave orders for summonding all the members of the annual committee of the burrows now in town to meet at midday, in order to get their oppinion and direction thereupon; and a good many having mett, they were pleased to lay it on me to signify to yow their intire satisfaction with all your conduct & manadgment, they are glad the bounty on the whale fishing is to be continued, and hereafter to be made payable out of the whole branches of the customs. The delay that has been given to the affair of the linnen gives them the greatest concern, as that delay must be attended with verry dismal consequences to this country, but since that for this time is over there is no help for it, the country must hope for the more favourable hearing next session, and the committee flatter themselves that the impressions which yow, the lord provost of Edinbr., and other faithfull freinds of their country have made will then have success; as after your sollicitor's bills are settled yow'le have at least a surcease, the committee doe not desire yow to stay any longer.—I am, with great regard, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servt.

Edr., 4th Febry. 1755. Da. Flint, pr.

To Messrs Tod & Cochran.

25 March 1755.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, David Flint, preses, & James Russell; Dysert, Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr.; Inverness, John Frazer; Lanerk, William Wilson; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Annan, Mr Johnstoun.

EDINBURGH. 25th March 1755.

Letters to ye rl. burrows anent maning the fleet approven.

The which day the annual committee considering it is their duty on this important occasion to doe every thing in their power to promote the speedy & effectual maning of his Majesty's fleet, have agreed to the following letter, which they appoint their preses to sign in their name and send to all the royal burrows who have sea ports, and to such of the burghs of barrony and regality who have accepted of the communication of trade, vizt. :—

Gentlemen,—The annual committee of the royal burrows being sensible how much it is the duty of all his Majestie's subjects in their respective stations to contribut their utmost endeavours with all his Majestie's commanders and officers that our fleets be speedily and well man'd, and particularly that the royal burrows and such places as partake of the benefit of the communication of trade should not be behind in their zeal for this purpose, have therefor directed me to write to yow, the tradeing burrows, to give your assistance to the officers employed by his Majesty in procureing a supply of sailors and seafareing men to man his Majestie's fleets; this the committee reckon to be a general concern for protecting the nation in its just rights and priviledges and for mentaining and promoteing its trade in which all his Majestie's subjects should heartily join, and which I am order'd particularly to recommend to yow.—I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant. Da. Flint, pres.

Edr., 25th March 1755.

30 May 1755.

Sederunt.

James Grant, present dean of gild of Edinbr., chosen preses; Edinburgh, David Flint and James Russell; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Inverury, Walter Ferguson.

Agent to pay Mr Wm. Tod's draught for 70 lit. sterl.

The which day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the royal burrows, laid before the committee a letter which was received from Mr William Tod, one of the commissioners who was sent to London to apply to parliament for some encouragment to the linnen manufactures, acquainting him, the

EDINBURGH, 30 May 1755.

Agent to pay Mr Wm. Tod's draught for 70 lit. sterl.

agent, of a bill drawn by the sd. Mr Tod on him for seventy pound sterling payable to the order of Messrs Coutts and Company, to be apply'd for paying to Mr Yeatts, a sollicitor in parliament, who was imployed by Provost Cochran and Mr Tod, of what was due to him for agenting that affair for the two last sessions of parliament, and desired the committee's directions if he should accept of that draught. Which being considered by the committee, and they being satisfyed that the said bill of seventy pounds and what was formerly advanced by the agent to Provost Cochran and Mr Willm. Tod is yet far short of the sum allowed for that negotiation, doe therefor appoint their agent to accept of the said bill and pay the same when it becomes due, in which all the committee agreed except the commr. for Elgin, for the expenditure of which sum Mr Tod is to accompt in the terms of his missive.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

9 July 1755.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Grant & Thomas Clerkson; Perth, John Robertson; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, William Mowat; Stirling, John Gillespie; Linlithgow, Henry Gilles; St Andrews, Peter Douglas; Glasgow, George Murdoch; Air, Thomas Garvine; Hadingtoun, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, Robert Henderson; Montrose, James Bisset; Coupar, the honble. Mr James Lesslie; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, John Hossack; Bruntisland, Samuel Charters; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Molison; Jedburgh, John Ainsley; Kirkudbright, Mr John Melligan; Wigtoun, Alexander Hooks; Pittenweem, Thomas Martin; Dumferling, Mr Alexr. Wedderburn; Anstruther Wester, Robert Hunter; Selkirk, William Currer; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Ranfrew, William Somervel, junr.; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Christopher Bannatyne; Aberbrothock, Alexr. Keith; Peebles, James Halden; Craill, John Oliphant; Tain, Mr David Ross;

Culross, Robert Geddes; Banf, James Bartlet; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forfar, Charles Webster; North Berwick, Hugh Lauder; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, Robert Henderson; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Annan, John Johnstoun; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, James Orr; New Gallaway, George Muir; Dingwall, Collin M'Kenzie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Fortrose, Sr. David Dalrymple; Kintore, Robert Bruce; Inverury, George Grub; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Campbeltoun, Mr Alexr. M'Millan; (twelve burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he being formerly qualifyed to his Majtie. King George the 2d as the law directs in the same capacity.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, and the thirty-ninth act of the convention, iajvij & and fourty-nine, was openly read according to appointment.

2d art. of the missive read.

3. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Dumfreise, Bruntisland, Brechin, Kirkudbright, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Banf, Cullen, and Annan as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to the convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their own presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Thos. Clarkson, commissioner for Edinbr.; John Gillespie, commissioner for Stirling; James Bisset, commissioner for Montrose; Lauchlane Morison, assessor for Montrose; Adam Fairholm, assessor for Aberbrothock; William Tod, assessor for Dysert; John Duncan, assessor for Aberdeen; and Hugh Lauder, commissioner for Northberwick.

Committee to revise the commissions.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755. Commissions approven.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having read and considered the commissions of the burghs of Linlithgow, St Andrews, Air, Hadingtoun, Anstruther Easter, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Brechin, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Selkrig, Ranfrew, Lanerk, Peebles, Craill, Tain, Culross, Banf, Forfar, North Berwick, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrennie, Annan, Lochmabin, New Gallaway, Dingwall, Fortrose, Kintore, Inverury, and Stranraer, were of oppinion that the whole of these commissions both as to the commissioners and assessors should be sustain'd excepting the commissions to the assessors for Craill and Fortrose, which they find are not in the terms of the plattform. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report sustaining the commissions; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—William Smyth, assessor for Linlithgow; James Bartlett, commissioner for Banf; James Frazer, assessor for St Andrews; Sr. David Dalrymple, commissioner for Fortrose; Robert Henderson, commissioner for Lauder; George Grub, commissioner for Inverury; George Muir, commr. for New Gallaway; but the convention reject the other commission for Linlithgow in favours of Provost Wauch.

Report of the trustees & the payts. made the receiver genl. presented.

5. The same day there was presented to the convention by the secretary to the trustees for fisherys and manufactures a coppy of the report made by these commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, the deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders for the said year preceeding Christmas last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

6. The same day the commissioner for Aberdeen represented that the cautioners for Robert Hog, staple factor at Campvere, were dead,

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755.

New cautioners for Rob. Hog, staple factor, approven.

and that he proposed to give a new bond wherein John Elphingstoun and George Alexander, both merchants in Aberdeen, are to be bound as cautioners with him; of which cautionry soe proposed the convention approve, and appoint their clerks to make out a new bond containing the above cautioners, and remitt to the annual committee to receive the said bond of caution.

Mr Wm. Grant, assessor to the burrows, promoted to be a Lord of Session.

7. The same day it was represented to the convention that Mr William Grant of Prestongrange, late lord advocat, and assessor to the convention of burrows, being now appointed one of the Lords of Session, it would be propper that an assessor for the convention should be named, and it being proposed that the rt. honble. Robert Dundas of Arnistoun should be named assessor for the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they deferr the furder consideration thereof till their next sederunt, agreeable to the acts of the convention.

Eodem die post meridiem.

Commission for Whithorn approven.

8. The convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Whithorn to Hugh Hathorn of Castle Wig appointing him their commissioner, and Mr John M'Gowan, writer to the signet, their assessor, they approve of the said commission.

The honble. Robt. Dundas of Arniston elected assessor.

9. The same day the convention unanimously elect the honble. Robert Dundas of Arnistoun, his Majestie's advocat, to be assessor to the royal burrows in the room of their late assessor, now one of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, and appoint their agent to pay him and his clerk the usuall sallary.

Agent to pay Mr Willm. Grant & his clerk's fees.

10. The same day the convention appoint their agent to wait of the Lord Prestongrange, late assessor, and to make payment to him and his clerk of their sallary for the last year.

Articles of the missive read and continued.

11. The same day the convention having heard read the general annual missive, they approve of the whole heads and clauses thereof and appoint the same to be continued heads of the next missive, except the

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755.

Articles of the missive read and continued.

nineteenth article relative to the tax roll, which the convention resolve to take under their consideration at their dyet to-morrow forenoon, and in the mean time remit the said article to the committee upon the commissions, and they to report; and in order to attain the salutary purposes contain'd in the seventeenth article of the missive, they recommend to the next annual committee to use their utmost endeavours to learn the true state of the weights and measures in the different parts of the kingdom, and what proportion they respectively bear to the legal standards established by the law of Scotland before the Union; and particularly in name of the convention to write to the several burrows to transmitt to the committee without loss of time a distinct account of the weights and measures used within their different districts, and to write to the several clerks to the justices of peace to lay before the justices in each county the design of the convention to bring about an uniformity of weights and measures, in order to obtain the sentiments of the justices upon this subject, and also to lay the same before the shirriff deputs, that matters may be prepared for obtaining the valuable ends proposed by this head of the missive.

Annl. committee to enquire into the weights and measures.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

12. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence doe unanimously approve of their conduct, and appoint their preses to return thanks to the committee for their great care in discharging the trust committed to them.

Report made by Messrs Cochran & Tod anent their negotiation at Londn. approven.

13. The same day Messers Cochran and Tod having represented to the convention their proceedings at London in pursuance of their commission for obtaining a parliamentary aid to the linnen manufactures, and the result of their conduct with regaurd to the other important matters committed to their charge, the convention unanimously approved of their conduct, and appoint their preses to return the convention's thanks to these gentlemen for their faithfull services; upon which a motion was made and unanimously agreed to that however unwilling these gentlemen were to accept of a gratuity for the trouble they had been at and the time imployed in the service of the convention, yet it was highly

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755.

becomeing the convention to express some suitable mark of their gratitude and esteem, and remit to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Glasgow to meet to-morrow at nine a cloak as a committee to inspect the accotts. of debursements by these gentlemen, and to consider what gratefull return should be made by the convention to them for their important services to the publick, and to report.

Committee to consider their accott. & trouble.

14. The same day the commissioner from Glasgow moved that the same powers as formerly should be conferred upon the annual committee for carrying into execution a bill for an act of parliament for the encouragment of the linnen trade, as there was great reason to hope that the same would still meet with propper encouragment from the ministry, and be attended with success upon application being made early next session of parliament. Which being considered by the convention, it was agreed to take up the same at their meeting to-morrow forenoon.

Motion that the annl. committee should have the former powers renew'd as to ye linnen.

15. The same day the commissioner for Glasgow reported that tho hitherto an act of parliament for removing the discouragments to open boat herring fishery had not been obtain'd, yet the publick utility arise-ing to the nation from that branch of trade gave just reason to hope that an act of parliament will next session be procured for removing the hardships under which that branch of commerce has laboured; that last year Mr Cathcart of London, sollicitor, had been extremely usefull in forming the bill and verry active in the conduct of that affair, which no doubt had put him to some expence as well as a great deall of trouble; that tho he never signifyed his expectations of any gratuity for his labour, yet it was most reasonable that he should be indemnifyed, and become-ing the convention to make some propper acknowledgment for his trouble. Which being considered by the convention, they agreed to take the same under deliberation at their next meeting.

Mr Craw-foord [? Cath-cart] at London, his service in the open boat herring fishery to be considered.

16. The same day the assessor for Glasgow represented that such a number of open boats were imploy'd in the herring fishing on the west and north-west of Scotland, and so many hands imployed, that it was next to impossible to preserve good order without having an admiral

Provt. Drummond & Provt. M'Call to apply for a sallary to an admiral in the herring fishing.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755. Provt. Drummond & Provt. M'Call to apply for a sallary to an admiral in the herring fishing.

appointed for that purpose, who should understand the Highland language, and have a suitable sallary for his trouble in visiting the several fishing places and composeing differences amongst the fishers, and therefor suggested that the convention should recommend it to Provost Drummond and Provost M'Aulay, two of the trustees for fisherys, &ca., to lay the same before the board in order, as soon as funds would allow, to obtain a propper sallary of twenty pounds or thirty pound a year, that application may be made to the Crown for procureing a commission of admiralty to some ffitt person in the Highlands and acquainted with the Irish language. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the proposall and recommend it to Provost Drummond and Provost M'Aulay accordingly.

Agent's accompts remit to a committee.

17. The same day there was presented to the convention by Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, his accompts of unfree trade and missive dues; and the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Stirling, Dumfreise, and Dumbar to meet tomorrow after the riseing of the forenoon's convention to audit and examine these accotts. and report.

A motion for suppressing of alehouses, &ca., remit to a committee.

18. The same day the commissioner from Glasgow represented that the vast number of alehouses and retaillers of spirits, particularly in the burrows, was become an intollerable nusance and extremly hurtfull to the morals and industry of the people, and therefor moved that the convention would recommend it to the lord advocat to prepare a bill for redressing these grivances and suppressing all houses of that sort, except such as shall be licenced by the magistrats of the respective burrows, or such other remedy as should seem propper to the wisdom of the legislature. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accompts, and they to report.

Committee to consider a motion anent the high roads.

19. The same day the commissioner from Stirling represented that of late some attempts had been made by the justices of peace to call out the inhabitants of that town and Linlithgow to repair some roads of the county without the limits of the burrows, that the like attempts had

been made with regaurd to other burrows, particularly that of Perth, and therefor moved that the convention would consider this as a common cause, and upon propper notise being given from any burgh of its inhabitants being thus called out, that the lawiers and agent for the convention should be authorized to take propper measures for their defence, or that the convention should take such other effectual measures for the defence of the burrows as to them should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Kinghorn, Queensferry, Linlithgow, Dumbar, Bruntisland, and Culross as a committee to meet to-morrow at nine a cloak to consider the same & report.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1755.

Committee to consider a motion anent the high roads.

20. The same day there was presented to the convention a petition from Thomas Douglas and Alexander Duthie, merchants in Campvere, craving to be admitted staple factors at the port of Campvere, and proposed Mr Adam Fairholm, mercht. in Edr., and John Watson, wryr. to the signet, as cautioners for their good behaviour and fidelity in that office. Which being considered by the convention, and they being sufficiently informed of and satisfyed with the fitness of the saids Thomas Douglas and Alexander Duthie for discharging that office, and of the sufficiency of their cautioners above named, therefor they did and hereby doe approve of the said cautioners, and doe commissionat, authorize, and appoint the said Thomas Douglas and Alexr. Duthie to be factors at the staple port of Campvere under the usual conditions and provisions, vizt.:—That the said office shall endure dureing the commissioners of the royal burrows their good will and pleasure allennarly, and that the saids Thomas Douglas and Alexr. Duthie shall behave themselves honestly and dutifully in the said office, and shall make just and thankfull compt, reckoning, and payment of whatsomever goods, gear, and sums of money they shall happen to intromit or be intrusted with, pertaining to whatsomever person or persons by whom they shall happen to be imployed as a staple factor, or that they shall

Act authorizing Thomas Douglas & Alexr. Duthie to be staple factors.

EDINBURGH 9 July 1755

Act authorizing Thomas Douglas & Alexr. Duthie to be staple factors.

happen to intromit with at command and direction of the royal burrows: and that they shall obey all and whatsomever acts & statuts made or to be made by the commissioners of burrows in their general or particular conventions; and that they shall underly all such offices as they shall please to burden them with, and shall discharge a true duty to all merchants, and shall not refuse to accept of their imployment how mean soever the same may happen to be whenever they shall happen to be required to that effect, and shall make good and be lyable for all goods, debts, and merchandize which they shall happen to intromit with or sell belonging to merchants, their constituents; that they shall not communicat the benefit of the said office of factory to any person or persons who are not admitted a factor at the said port, by takeing them into copartnery with themselves, without the consent of the royal burrows; and that they shall be obedient to the discipline of the Scots Church at Campvere, and shall make no rebates of merchants' bills at their own hand, conform to the acts of the royal burrows dischargeing the same; and lastly, that incase any of their cautioners above named shall either dye or become insufficient, that they shall renew their caution when they shall be required thereto; and they appoint them to appear before the conservator or his deputs and give their oaths *de fideli administratione;* and they remit to the annual committee to receive their bonds of cautionry accordingly.

10 July 1755.

Commissions for Queensferry & Sanquhar approven.

21. The which day the convention having heard read a new commission from the burgh of Queensferry to Baillie Robert Dick, commissioner, and the honble. Robert Dundas of Arnistoun, lord advocat for Scotland, to be his assessor in room of Provost M'Aulay, formerly named assessor, he having accepted a commission from an other burrow, as also having heard a commission from the burgh of Sanquhar in favours of Mr James Orr, one of the present baillies, to be their commissioner, and Alexr. Goldie of Mains to be his assessor, they approve of the said commissions.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

Annl. committee to apply for protections to the herring & cod fishing and whale ffishing.

22. The same day the lord preses reported that upon inquiry into precedents with regard to protections during the last war to fishers imploy'd on the coasts of Scotland, it appeared that upon application to the lords of the admiralty by the agent for the royal burrows, as directed by the annual committee, 1741, a general protection was obtain'd from their lordships to all fishermen and others imploy'd in the Firths of Forth, Clyde, & Murray, whereunto all commanders, officers, press masters, & others were required to have due regard that none of the said fishermen or others be impressed into his Majestie's service dureing the herring season, but permitted to follow their imployment without any hinderance or molestation, and the like protection was obtain'd anno 1742. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the next annual committee to follow furth the same measures contain'd in the records, annis 1741 & 1742, and that not only with regard to the fishermen and others imploy'd in the herring fishery, but also for protection to the fishers imploy'd in the white ffishing along the east coast of Scotland, the codd and tusk in Zetland, and particularly for protections to the harpineers, linemen, and boat stirers imployed in the whale fishery.

Annl. committee to send two commissioners to Londn. to apply to parliat. for propper encouragmt. to the linnen manufactures, & to expend five hundred pounds sterl. yrin.

23. The same day the commissioner for Glasgow reported that there being good reason to beleive that a parliamentary encouragment may be obtain'd for the support of the linning manufactures, which is of the greatest consequence to this part of the Island, therefor moved that the annual committee should be authorized to name and appoint two fit persons and grant them commission in behalf of the royal burrows to repair early to London next session, to petition and sollicit for such publick parliamentary aid as may recover and establish this most valuable branch of trade, which otherways may be intirely lost; and that the agent may be impower'd to advance money or answer the draughts of these commissioners by direction of the annual committee not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds sterling; and the preses be desired to recommend this important affair in the name of the royal

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

burrows to his Majesty's ministers & members of parliament in the warmest manner. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said motion and ordain and enact accordingly, hereby vesting the annual committee with conventional powers for the said purpose.

Annl. committee to imploy Mr Cathcart to apply to parliat. in favour of the herring & cod fishing.

24. The same day the commissioner from Glasgow represented that observing with concern how much the publick good was obstructed by the various exactions and oppressions, as well as other hardships and difficulties, which have for a long time distressed the cod and herring fishery, and as it was absolutely necessary for the preservation and extension of this valuable branch of trade that the laws in being should be explain'd, amended, and inforced, it was therefor moved that the annual committee should be authorized to grant commission from the royal burrows to John Cathcart of London, Esqr., to sollicit and petition for such parliamentary aid and releif as the nature and importance of this matter may require; and that the agent should be appointed at the sight and by the direction of the annual committee to pay out Mr Cathcart's necessary charges, and the preses desired to offer him the thanks of the convention for what he has already done in order to accomplish this desireable purpose. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said motion, and authorize and appoint their annual committee with conventional powers to proceed accordingly.

Preses to lay the complaints agt. alehouses before the lord advocat.

25. The same day the commissioner from Glasgow reported from the committee that the great increase of the numbers and disorders of alehouses and other publick houses for retailing of ale, bear, and spirits was a great sourse of idleness and debauchery, and therefor it appeared adviseable that the convention should earnestly recommend it to the lord advocat to prepare a bill to be brought in next session of parliament for suppressing the vast number of these pernicious places of resort, and for granting such powers to magistrats as may be thought propper for licenceing and maintaining the good order of publick houses within their bounds. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the

said report, and recommend to their preses to lay the same before the lord advocat in name of the convention.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

26. The same day the preses reported to the convention that the committee had considered the accompts of Messrs Cochran and Tod—Mr Cochran's accott. for the year 1753 amounting to one hundred and fourty-two pounds, whereof there remain'd in his hand a ballance of six pounds twelve shillings and six pence sterl., and his accompt for the last year amounting to one hundred and fourty-two pounds, whereof there remains a ballance in his hand of sixteen pounds two shillings and six pence; and that Mr Tod's accompt amounted to one hundred and seventy pound sterl., whereof fourty-three pounds nine shillings and ten pence sterl. was paid to Mr Yetts, linnen sollicitor at London, as appear'd by his accompts and recept, with all which particulars the committee were well satisfyed; and were of oppinion that as a mark of the convention's esteem and gratitude to these gentlemen for their faithfull services to the publick, the annual committee should be authorized to lay out a hundred guineas in plate to be given to these gentlemen, with propper inscriptions to be devised by the committee, to remain with their familys as a testimony of the convention's respect for their great and good services. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and authorize their agent to receive from Mr Cochran the forsaid ballances amounting to twenty-two pounds fifteen shillings sterl., and appoint the annual committee to prepare the forsaid plate with propper inscriptions, and cause deliver the same to Mr Cochran and Mr Tod, vizt.:—sixty guineas for Mr Cochran's plate & fourty for Mr Tod's.

Messrs Cochran & Tod's accotts. approven and the ballances, being £22, 15s. str., to be paid into ye agent, and the annl. committee give them a present of plate to ye value of 100 guineas.

27. The same day the commissioner for the burgh of Fortrose represented to the convention that there was lately erected a society in this place, called the Edinburgh society for encouraging arts, sciences, manufactures, and agriculture in Scotland; that the same was founded on a plan calculat to raise a spirit of emulation for the improvement, both of the more ingenious and usefull arts, by a propper destribution of

Committee to consider what encouragment to the society for encouraging of arts, sciences, &., is propper to be given.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755. Committee to consider what encouragment to the society for encouraging of arts, sciences, &., is propper to be given.

honorary & lucrative premiums; that it was hard to say how much this might tend to the embellishing as well as improveing the ingenious and usefull arts in humane society; that tho the design was extensive, the funds, hitherto cheifly advanced by the members, had not come up to what might be deem'd necessary for carrying into execution so noble and benevolent a design, that he was perswaded the royal burrows would lay hold of the first opportunity of countenanceing this generous and disinterested plan for the improvement of their country. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Montrose, Dunbar, Linlithgow, Fortrose, Queensferry, Bruntisland, Coupar, Dumbarton, Whithorn, Tain, and New Gallaway as a committee to consider the above motion, to meet at the riseing of the house & report.

Petition for sevll. members in Innerkeithing remit to the annl. committee.

28. The same day the convention heard a petition from certain members of the burgh of Innerkeithing representing that they had formerly apply'd to the convention setting forth certain objections to the sett of the burgh as it now stands, and complaining of several acts of the present administrators, and praying for redress in the premises. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their next annual committee with conventional powers to determine therein as they shall see cause, incase the partys shall agree to submitt to use their best endeavours for that purpose, and to report to the next convention their proceedings therein.

Committee to consider a few charter of the Muir of Montrose.

29. The same day the convention heard read a petition from the burgh of Montrose and Alexander Kennedy, vintner there, bearing that the magistrats for the advantage of the burgh had expede a few charter of the Muir of Montrose and pertinents in favours of the said Alexander Kennedy, and praying that the convention would be pleased to ratify the said few contract and charter, and appoint the same to be recorded in the books of the convention in the usuall manner. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Aberdeen, Dundee, Brechin, and Aberbrothock, or any two of them, to consider

what is above represented, and whether the same be for the utility of the burgh, and to report.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

[30. List of arrears of missive dues presented.]

Post meridiem.

31. The same day the convention having heard read the commission from the burgh of Campbleton appointing Mr Alexr. M'Millan of Dunmore their commissioner, they approve of the said commission.

Commission for Campbeltoun approven.

32. The same day the committee appointed to consider the motion of the member for Stirling concerning the power of the justices of peace to call out the inhabitants of royal burrows to personal services in repairing the high roads, reported that they having heard a memorial by Mr Robert Craigie, late lord advocat, who seems to be of oppinion that by the laws in force in Scotland before the acts of parliament anent the turnpike roads the inhabitants of royal burrows are not subjected to any personal services in repairing the said roads; and the committee being uncertain how far there is any alteration made in that matter by the turnpike acts, therefor the committee were of oppinion that the annual committee should be impower'd and directed to advise with the lord advocat, their assessor, if or not by the turnpike acts of parliament the inhabitants, merchants, tradesmen, and others resideing in royal burrows are subjected in such personal services or to pay for it; and if his lordship is of oppinion that by the said turnpike acts the inhabitants of royal burrows are not subjected, then that the annual committee should be directed to defend the burrows of Stirling, Perth, or any other royal burrow who shall be attacted, and the agent appointed to expend what may be necessary in such defence; but if his lordship shall be of oppinion that they are subjected, that in that case the annual committee should be directed to apply to parliament for a rectification of that law at the expence of the burrows. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and doe

Annl. committee to defend the inhabitants of royal burrows from being call'd out to repair the publick roads.

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vest their annual committee with conventional powers for expending what may be necessary in defending the burrows, and for obtaining a rectification of the laws with respect to turnpike roads if that shall be deem'd necessary.

Agent to pay to the treasr. of the Edr. society for improvements 100 guineas.

33. The same day the preses reported from the committee to whom it was remit that they having examined the proposall made by the Edinbr. society for encouragment of arts, sciences, and manufactures, were unanimously of oppinion that the encouragment of arts, sciences, and manufactures is a matter of the utmost importance to this country and highly merits the attention of the royal burrows assembled in this convention; that the plan proposed by the Edinbr. society is well calculated for the purposes of publick utility; that for these reasons (it was proposed) that the convention doe signify their approbation of the plan proposed, and for carrying it into execution doe appoint the sum of one hundred guineas to be paid to the treasurer of the Edinbr. society. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to make payment of the sum of one hundred and five pound sterling to the treasr. of the Edinbr. society as a testimony of their hearty approbation of the excellent plan sett on foot by that society for the improvement of the country, and the convention earnestly intreats their several members to use their utmost endeavours for promoteing an undertakeing so directly tending to the national benefit.

[34. Agent's accompt of unfree trade approven. 35. Agent's accompt of missive dues approven], and of which accott. the tenor follows:—

Mr Hugh Forbes, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland, his accompt of missive dues from July 1st, 1754, to do. 1755.

Debr.

To the ballance of his last accompt of missive dues audited the fourth day of July 1754 - - £2517 18 $4\frac{5}{12}$

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

To one year's missive dues of the royal burrows from 1st July 1754 to do. 1755 - -	£12,000	0	0
To the price of Provost Cochran's chaise, sold at his return for - - - - -	144	0	0
Charge -	£14,661	18	$4\frac{5}{12}$

Contra. Crer.

By cash paid into the bank as the 2d moyetie of 18,000 Scots given by the convention in July 1753 to the publick buildings within the city of Edinbr. - - - - -	£3000	0	0
By the prinle. clerk's sallary - - - -	600	0	0
By the agent's sallary - - - -	600	0	0
By his servant's sallary - - - -	120	0	0
By the late lord advocat, his sallary as assessor -	333	6	8
By his servant's sallary - - - -	60	0	0
By Archd. M'Aulay, Esqr., his sallary as conservator	600	0	0
By David Flint, secretary to the trustees, for his own and clerk's sallary - - - -	960	0	0
By James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office till Whitsonday 1755 - - - -	240	0	0
By Allan Whitefoord, receiver general, for his clerk's sallary - - - - -	240	0	0
By George Lindsay, deput clerk, of sallary - -	240	0	0
By Archibald Blair, as recorder, his sallary & writings	360	0	0
By John Middlemist, burrow officer, for sallary and gratuity - - - - -	288	0	0
By the clerk to the burrow aeque - - -	60	0	0
By the keeper of the advocats' bar - - -	29	0	0
By Patrick Borthwick, under keeper and cryer -	18	0	0
By the gardner, for flowers - - -	12	0	0
By the keeper of the burrow room - - -	15	0	0

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

By Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, of supply - - - - -					£60	0	0
By expence of dilligence, postages, printings, &ca., pr. accotts. - - - - -					62	18	0
By this year's general missive - - -					36	0	0
By Mr George Ross, admitted agent for the burrows at London, of sallary - - - -					300	0	0
By the agent's allowance for incidents - -					120	0	0
1754							
Nov. 21	By cash advanced to Mr Willm. Tod for his journey to London, pr. act, str. - -	£100	0	0			
Decer. 26	By cash advanced to Provost Cochran for do. in the affair of the linnen - -	42	0	0			
Do.	By cash paid for his chaise	21	0	0			
1755							
Janry. 23	By cash paid for Provost Cochran's draught -	101	0	0			
June 10	By cash paid for Mr William Tod's draught for the sollicitor's bill	70	0	0			
		£334	0	0			
	By intrest on do. advances	7	9	10			
	Sterl.	£341	9	10			
					Scots 4,097	18	0
					£12,452	2	8
Ballance due by the agent on this accompt					2,209	15	$8\frac{5}{12}$
					£14,661	18	$4\frac{5}{12}$

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755. Committee to examine into the state of St Andrews.

36. The same day the convention heard a petition from the magistrats and town councill of the city of St Andrews, representing that the said city was much resorted to by strangers and persons of distinction as being the seat of an university, of the commissary court, and having a publick grammar school in a flourishing condition; that the whole publick passages and entrys to the burrow were extremely broke and almost impassible in the winter season, when cheifly repair'd to by strangers and persons of distinction, but the publick funds were so low and so much incumber'd as scarce any thing could be spared for the above purposes, in so much that the only entry put in tollerable order was by contribution made from house to house amongst the inhabitants; that there were four publick passages yet in great disrepair, and therefor praying such releif in the premisses as should appear reasonable to the honble. convention. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Dundee, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, and Kilrenny, or any two of them, to examine into the state of the said burrow and report to the next annual convention.

Agent to pay sallarys and gratuitys.

37. The same day the convention unanimously agree to continue the present establishment, and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, to wit:—To Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pound sterl. of sallary; to the agent, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterl. of sallary; to Robert Dundas of Arnistoun, his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, sixty pound Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the commissioners and trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pound sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next, twenty pound sterl.; to George Ross, Esqr., agent at London, twenty-five pound sterling of sallary; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pounds sterl. for his clerk's sallary; to George Lindsay, deput clerk, twenty pound

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1755.

Agent to pay sallarys and gratuitys.

sterl. of sallary; to John Blair, elected recorder in place of Archibald Blair, his father, thirty pound sterl. for sallary & writings; to John Middlemist, burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary and four pound sterl. of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, sixty pound Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to Patrick Borthwick, under keeper & cryer, eighteen pound Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pounds Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pound Scots; and to Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, sixty pound Scots of supply dureing her life.

Annl. committee impower'd to grant the communication of trade to Newburgh.

38. The same day the commissioner from Perth represented that a considerable trade had been carry'd on for some time at Newburgh, situat on the banks of the Tay betwixt Perth and Dundee; that the said burgh of Newburgh was willing to accept of the communication of trade and become subjected to a reasonable share of the tax roll for cess and missive dues. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the annual committee to give them the communication of trade upon their entring into a contract with the agent for payment of such rate as to the annual committee shall seem just and reasonable.

Edr., 11th July 1755.

Few rights of the Muir of Montrose approven.

39. The which day the committee appointed to consider the few rights granted by the town of Montrose of their common muir to Alexander Kennedy, vintner there, reported that having examined that matter they were of oppinion that the town of Montrose acted manifastly for the intrest of that burgh, and that the convention should approve thereof. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the few right and charter granted by the town of Montrose to the said Alexr. Kennedy, and appoint the same to be recorded in the burrow books after the acts of this convention.

Tax roll continued till July 1756.

40. The same day the convention having resumed the consideration of the ninteenth head of the missive, they continue the tax roll as it

now stands for one year longer, untill July iajvij & and fifty-six, and also continue to the several burrows the several assignations made in their favours to the respective branches of unfree trade assign'd to them.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1755.

41. The same day the convention of new remit to the burghs of Dumfreise, Kirkudbright, Annan, and Lochmabin to viset the burgh of Sanquhar and report what state and circumstances the same is in, conform to the 38th act of the convention, 1749.

Committee to viset Sanquhar & report.

42. The same day the preses represented that Archibald Blair, who had served for upwards of thirty years as recorder & extracter of the acts of the burrows, was desireous to have John Blair, his son, put in his place, that the conjunct general clerks approved of that proposall and nominated the said John Blair in hope that the same would be agreeable to the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the said John Blair to be insert in the establishment in room of his father as recorder & extracter.

John Blair chosen to be recorder & extracter in place of Archd. Blair, his father.

43. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Wigtoun, Dumfermling, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Tain, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Cullen, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Queensferry, Fortrose, Inverury, Stranraer, and Campbletoun as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such

Annl. committee wt. their usual powers.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1755. Annl. committee wt. their usual powers

caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have speciall authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July iajvij & and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annuall committee to be to-morrow at ten a cloak in the forenoon in the laigh council house of Edr., and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

Convention dissolved.

44. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the first Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-six years, and appoints the clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

Follows the contract of few granted by the magistrates and town councill of Montrose in favours of Alexander Kennedy, vintner in Montrose, appointed to be recorded by the thirty-ninth act of the convention, 1755, with the charter following thereupon.

. . . . . .

Meetings of Annual Committee *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 12 July 1755.

12 July 1755.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., preeses; Edinbr., James Grant and James Russell; Aberdeen, John Duncan; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Innerkeithing, John Cunningham; Dysert, William Tod; Dumfries, George Bell; Lanerk, William Wilson; Dumfermling, John Wilson; Kilrenny, Robert Montgomerie; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Campbelltown, Alexander M'Millan; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Dingwall, John Dingwall.

The which day the committee elected George Drummond, Esquire, lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day the committee having heard the several remitts of the convention read in their presence, and particularly the twenty-second act with reguard to the protections to the ffisher men concerning the herring, white fishing, and whale trade, the committee considering that the whale ships from Greenland are dayly expected, and that the impressing the saillors, particularly the officers, such as harpooners, &ca., might totally disappoint that trade, and that no time was to be lost, did therefore remitt to the preeses, Edinburgh, and Bruntisland to prepare a petition to the lords of the admirality, with a letter to be sent off by this night's post to their secretary under cover to the burrow agent, representing in name of the convention the importance it is to that branch of trade that effectual care be taken to prevent the impressing those usefull hands in the whale trade, and the granting orders to all concerned if any such are seized to sett them at liberty upon the first application from any of the managers concerned in the several companys in that trade; and also that they prepare a petition with reguard to the herring and white fishing, to be transmitted on Twesday next to the burrow agent, in order to obtain protections on the plan that took

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1755.

place in the year 1741 and 1742, and transmit along therewith copys of what then past with the protections that stand recorded in the books of the convention at that time.

The same day, considering the twenty-sixth act of the convention, the committee remitt to the preeses, Edinburgh, Bruntisland, and Aberbrothock to cause execute the two peices of plate with proper inscriptions to be delivered to Messrs Cochrane and Tod, agreeable to the said act of the convention.

The same day the committee considering the twenty-eight act of the convention relative to the petition of certain inhabitants of the burgh of Innerkeithing complaining both of the sett of the burgh and several acts of administration by the present council, the committee recommend it to both partys to enter into a submission with reguard to the sett of the burgh, but did not think it was necessary or proper for the committee to interpose with reguard to the alleadged acts of maladministration; whereupon Mr Blackwood of Pitravie, advocate, for his constituents, offer'd an absolute submission to the committee with respect to the whole points in the petition, and the provost of Innerkeithing declared that for his own part he was willing to submitt the sett of the burgh with reguard to the number of the constituent members or what the committee shou'd think proper towards its regulation for the benefite of the burgh; whereupon the committee appoint the commissioner for Innerkeithing to call together the council and lay before them an extract of the procedure of the convention and committee, and to lodge with the clerks of the convention an extract under the hand of the clerk of council bearing the resolution of the magistrats and council of Innerkeithing, particularly wither they will or will not agree to submitt the difference betwixt them and the petitioners with reguard to the sett of the burgh to the amicable decision of the annual committee, and to lodge the said extract of the town council of the burgh of Innerkeithing on or before the first Twesday of August next with certification.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1755.

The same day the committee considering the thirty-eight act of the convention relative to the application for the communication of trade to the burgh of Newburgh, they remitt to the burghs of Perth, Dundee, Coupar, and St Andrews, or any two of them, to examine into the state of the trade of Newburgh and to report to the committee on what terms (in their judgement) the communication of trade ought to be granted to the burgh of Newburgh, in order to prepare matters so as the contract of communication may be carry'd into execution; and appoints their clerks to transmitt an extract of the said act of convention and of this appointment of the committee to the commissioner for the burgh, Perth, with power to him to call the neighbouring burrows together, and to report their opinion to the committee without loss of time.

2 August 1755.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinburgh, James Grant & David Flint; Linlithgow, William Smyth; Air, Andrew Hunter; Dysert, William Tod; Lochmaben, Mr William Johnston; New Galloway, George Muir; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Innerkeithing, John Cunningham; Dumfermling, Mr Wedderburn; Fortrose, Sir David Dalrymple; Archibald M'Aulay.

The which day the preeses laid before the committee a letter he received from John Clevland, Esquire, secretary to the lords of the admirality, acquainting that their lordships had given directions to their officers employ'd in raiseing men in Scotland not to impress into his Majestie's service any of the persons who have served in this year's Greenland ffishery, on board any of the whale fishing ships belonging to this part of the United Kingdom, in the stations of harpooners, boatstearers, and line coillers, and if any such should be unknowingly impressed either on board or on shoar, that upon proof of their having so served they be discharged; as also the preeses acquainted the committee that he had received a letter from Mr George Ross, the burrows' agent at London, acquainting that the lords of the

EDINBURGH. 2 August 1755.

admirality were disposed to grant protections to the boats employ'd in the herring ffishing if a list of the names of the masters of the several boats and the number of hands employ'd in each boat were laid before their lordships. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their preeses to write to Mr Clevland and return their most humble and hearty thanks to the lords of the admirality for giving orders to prevent the impressing any of the officers belonging to the ships which have been employed this last season in the whale fishing, and to represent the impractability of sending a list of the names of the masters of the several boats employed in the herring fishing and the number of hands in each boat, as most of the crews of these boats are not inhabitants of any royal burrow, and therefore to beg that their lordships would give such an order for their protection as was granted upon an application made to them in the year 1741, and to transmitt a copy of the protection which was granted at that time as recorded in the books of the convention.

The same day the commissioner for Innerkeithing in terms of the minute of last sederunt produced an extract of an act of the town council of the said burgh under the hand of William Walker, clerk thereof, whereby they decline to submitt to the committee the alteration of the sett of their town. Which being read, the committee refer the consideration thereof to the next convention.

9 October 1755.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preeses; Edinburgh, James Grant, Thomas Clarkson, David Flint, & James Russell; Linlithgow, William Smith; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Inverness, John Fraser; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Lochmaben, Mr William Johnston; Dysert, William Tod; Culross, Archibald Wightman; Archibald M'Aulay.

The which day Deacon Peter Robertson, goldsmith, presented to the committee the peices of silver plate intended for Andrew Cochran,

EDINBURGH. 9 October 1755.

Esquire, late Provost of Glasgow, and William Tod, merchant in Edinburgh, for their services at London in the affair of the linnen last session of parliament, with an accompt of the charge of the said peices of plate amounting to one hundred and eight pounds seven shillings and nine pence sterling inclusive of the duty and ingraving the inscriptions; and the committee being satisfied with the reasonableness of the said accompt, they appoint their agent to pay to the said Peter Robertson the aforsaid sum of one hundred and eight pounds seven shillings and nine pence sterling out of this year's missive dues, and to charge the same to accompt of the burrows, and recommend to their preeses to deliver the same to the gentlemen in the most respectfull manner.

The same day the committee having taken into consideration the twenty-third act of the last general convention, vesting them with conventional powers to nominat and appoint two fitt persons and grant them commission in behalf of the royal burrows to repair early to London next session of parliment, to petition and sollicite for such publick parliamentary aid to the linnen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland as may recover and establish that most valuable branch of trade, which otherwise may be intirely lost; and the committee being fully satisfied of the abilitys and fitness of George Drummond, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, and of Mr William Tod of Edinburgh, merchant, for manadging that important affair, therefore the committee did and hereby doe nominat and appoint the said George Drummond and William Tod, giveing and hereby granting full power and commission to them to repair with all convenient dispatch to London, and there in name of the royal burrows of Scotland to petition and apply to parliament for such public aid and encouragment to the linnen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland as may recover and establish that most valuable branch of trade and preserve it from sinking, as it has done too obviously for some years past, and to take what measures to them shall appear most expedient for attaining that end; and appoint their agent to advance money or answer the draughts of the saids commissioners by

Edinburgh. 9 October 1755.

direction of the annual committee to the amount of but not exceeding five hundred pound sterling in that affair, and to charge the same with intrest from his advances to the burrows in his next accompts; and in reguard it will be necessary that Mr Tod should go up to London next week to prepare matters before the lord provost can come up, therefore they appoint their agent to advance to him one hundred pounds sterling upon his receipt in part of the sum abovementioned; and they authorize and impower their preeses in their name to write to the ministers of state, members of parliment, or any other proper persons intreating their countenance and assistance in this important affair.

11 November 1755.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinburgh, James Grant, David Flint, & Thomas Clarkson; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Air, Andrew Hunter; Lanerk, William Wilson; Inverness, John Fraser; Culross, Archibald Wightman; Lochmaben, Mr William Johnston; Archibald M'Aulay.

The which day the preeses represented to the committee that the principal linnen manufacturers at Glasgow, attentive to the great importance of obtaining a parliamentary aid to that branch of trade, had signified their earnest desire that Provost Cochran should be join'd with the commissioners appointed to repair to London for that purpose, from a persuasion that his former experience in conducting that affair wou'd enable him to be of singular service, if he could be prevailed upon to accept; the preeses also signified that it would be most agreeable to him and the other commissioner already named that Provost Cochran should be joined with them in solliciting an affair of so much importance to the country. Which being considered by the annual committee, they did and hereby do nominat and impower Provost Andrew Cochran of Glasgow to repair to London without loss of time, and in name of the royal burrows of Scotland join with the other commissioners in applying

EDINBURGH. 11 November 1755.

to parliament for such aid and encouragement to the linnen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland as may recover and establish that most valuable branch of trade, and the committee most earnestly request Provost Cochran to accept of this commission for the service of his country.

The same day the preeses acquainted the committee that beside the commission granted to him and Mr William Tod, it would be also necessary to grant an attorney to some fitt person to subscrive any application that may be made to parliament, and to sollicite and carry throw the same in both houses as he shall be directed. Which being considered by the committee, they approve of the draught of the letter of attorney to be sent to George Ross, Esqr., their agent at London, and appoint their preeses to sign the same in their name, and the seall of the city of Edinbr. to be affixt thereto, and of which letter of attorney the tenor follows:—

Wee, the annual committee of the royal burrows of Scotland, considering that by the twenty-third act of the last general convention we are vested with conventional powers to follow out such measures as shall appear most proper for attaining parliamentary aid for encouraging the linnen manufactures, and being deeply sensible that the linnen manufactures is of the utmost importance to this part of the United Kingdom, and that no time ought to be lost on so important an affair for the better enabling our manufacturers for carrying on that valuable branch of trade, and being also sensible of the ability and fittness of George Ross of London, Esquire, to prosecute and follow furth that affair, do therefore nominate, constitute, and appoint him to be our true and lawfull attorney to the effect underwritten, giving and hereby granting to him full power and authority for us and in our name to sign and give into parliament a petition for such publick and parliamentary aid to the linnen manufactures as may encourage that valuable branch of commerce, at present in so languishing a state, so as to enable the manufacturers to supply our own plantations abroad with our own

EDINBURGH. 11 November 1755.

manufactures upon an equal foott with foreign linnen imported; and we also hereby impower him to prosecute and follow furth the said application to parliament in both houses untill the final conclusion of that matter, and to do every thing therein that we could do ourselves if personally present, promising to hold firm and stable all and whatsomever things our said attorney lawfully does or causes to be done in the premisses; in testimony whereof these presents are signed by George Drummond, Esquire, present lord provost of Edinburgh, our preeses, by our appointment, and the seall of the city of Edinburgh is hereto affixt att Edinburgh, the eleventh day of November one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five years, and of the reign of our sovereign lord King George the Second, the twenty-nineth year.

L.S.

Sic subscribitur,
Geo. Drummond, preses.

20 February 1756.

Sederunt.

Edinr., James Grant, preeses; Culross, Archibald Wightman; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Linlithgow, William Smyth; Air, Andrew Hunter; Kilrenny, Robert Montgomerie.

The which day the committee elect James Grant, present dean of gild of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the burrows, exhibited to the committee a letter from Mr William Tod, one of the burrows' commissioners at London, dated the fourteenth instant, acquainting that he had drawn on him on account of the linnen bill for one hundred pounds sterling, payable to the order of Mr M'Culloch at fifteen days' date; as also he exhibited to the committee an other letter from Provost Drummond, the other commissioner, of the same date, acquainting of the forsaid draught and desiring that it may be duely honour'd. Which being considered by the committee, and they having heard the said two letters read in their presence, they authorize the agent to accept of and pay the forsaid draught, and to charge the same with intrest to the royal burrows in his next year's accompt.

General Convention *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 6 July 1756.

6 July 1756.

Edinburgh, James Grant & Thomas Clelland; Perth, John Robertson; Dundee, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, William Muat; Stirling, John Jeffrey; St Andrews, James Lumsdean; Glasgow, George Murdoch; Air, Andrew Sloan; Hadingtoun, Robert Thomson; Dysert, Robert Henderson; Kirkaldie, George Drysdale; Montrose, James Bisset; Coupar, Doctor George Bethune; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstoun; Dumfreise, George Bell; Inverness, Evan Baillie; Bruntisland, Samuel Charters; Inverkeithing, John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Mollison; Jedburgh, Alexander Ainsley; Kirkudbright, Thomas Kirkpatrick; Pittenweem, Thomas Martin; Dumferling, Mr Alexander Wedderburn; Anstruther Wester, Robert Hunter; Selkirk, Andrew Scott; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Ranfrew, William Somervell; Dumbar, Robert Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, Alexander Keith; Elgin, William Forbes; Peebles, James Halden; Craill, John Oliphant; Tain, David Ross, Esqr.; Culross, Robert Halkerstoun; Banf, Alexander Innes; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forfar, John Webster; Rothesay, Mr Alexander M'Millan; Forress, Thomas Brodie; North Berwick, Hugh Lauder; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, John Thomson; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, Alexander Goldie; New Galloway, George Muir; Dingwall, Collin M'Kenzie: Queensferry, Robert Dick; Fortrose, Alexander Houstoun; Inverury, George Grub; Inverary, Mr Robert Campbell; Kirkwall, John Riddoch; Inverbervie, Thomas Chrystie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; (nine burrows *blank*). Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elected George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, he having formerly qualifyed to his Majesty King George the Second as the law directs. Preses chosen.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1756.

Act anent missive dues read.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment, and the 39th article of the convention, 1749.

Committee to revise the commissions.

3. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Air, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, Inverness, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Elgin, Rothsay, Annan, and Queensferry as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to this convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their own presence, the convention approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Thomas Clelland, commissioner, and Robert Forrester, assessor, for Edinburgh; Evan Baillie, commissioner for Inverness; Robert Fordyce, assessor for Aberdeen; and George Drysdale, commissioner for Kirkaldie.

Commissions approven.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard and considered the commissions for the burghs of St Andrews, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Brechin, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Lanerk Aberbrothock, Craill, Tayne, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Forfar, Forress, North Berwick, Cullen, Lauder, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, New Galloway, Fortrose, Inverurie, Kirkwall, and Stranraer, they were of oppinion that the whole of these commissions both of the commissioners and assessors should be sustained. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report and sustain the commissions accordingly; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualify'd did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—Alexr. Ainsley, commissioner for Jedburgh; Robert Halkerstoun, commissioner, and John Dalgleish, assessor, for Culross.

5. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the trustees for fisherys and manufactures, a coppy of the report made by the saids commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders for the said year preceeding Christmas last, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusall of the members.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1756. Report of the trustees & the genl. receiver's accott. presented.

6. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence did remit the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named, & they to report.

Annl. missive read.

Eodem die post meridiem.

7. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the present annual missive reported that having read & considered the several heads of the missive, they were of oppinion that the same should be continued for one year longer. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the whole heads and clauses thereof, and appoint the same to be continued heads of the missive; and that the tax roll as it stands at present be continued one year longer, untill July 1757 years.

Heads of the missive & the tax roll continued till July 1757.

8. The same day the convention having considered the commissions from the burgh of Innerkeithing appointing John Cunningham, their present provost, their commissioner, and Capt. James Cunningham, assessor, and also the commission from the burgh of Inverbervie appointing Thomas Chrystie, one of the present baillies, their commissioner, and John Brodie, also one of the present baillies, to be assessor, they approve of the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

9. The same day there was presented to the convention by Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, his accompts, unfree trade & missive dues; the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee,

Agent's accompts referr'd to a committee.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1756.

Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow, Air, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreise, Dumbarton, Dumbar, and Rothesay to meet to-morrow morning at nine a clock to audit and examine the said accompts & report.

Proceedings of the annl. committee approven.

10. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence doe unanimously approve of their conduct, and appoint their preses to return thanks to the committee for their great care in dischargeing the trust committed to them.

John Cathcart's accott. in the white herring and cod fishing bill presented.

11. The same day the preses reported that John Cathcart of London, Esqr., had put in his hands an accompt of the expence of obtaining an act of parliament for the encouragment of the open boat herring and codd fishings amounting in whole to two hundred and four pounds two shillings sterling, exclusive of the expence and trouble Mr Cathcart had been put to in prosecuting that affair for four years, for which he had charged nothing, and by his letter read in the convention signifyed his willingness if the great expence upon the linnen bill should render immediat payment inconvenient, to supercede his demand for a year or two, upon obtaining a propper obligation to pay it with legal intrest in London at any time certain not exceeding two years; and the preses lodged with the convention an accompt of the fees & depursements on the bill for encouraging the fisherys in Scotland paid out by Mr Cathcart, with a recept by Robert Yetts of London, sollicitor. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accompts, and they to report.

Plan for encouraging the ffisherys presented.

12. The same day the preses presented to the convention a letter from the said John Cathcart, Esqr., proposeing a plan for carrying the several priviledges granted by the late act of parliament for encouraging the fisherys in Scotland into execution. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee on the agent's accompts, & they to report.

13. The same day the preses reported that in obedience to the

appointment of the last convention he and Mr Tod had repair'd to London, and by the aid and with the countenance of the ministry had obtain'd an act of parliament for the encouragment of the linnen trade of this part of the United Kingdom, and that the accompts of the charges in procureing the said act were ready to be produced. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the above named committee on the agent's accompts, and they to report.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1756.

The expence of the linnen act referr'd to a committee.

14. The same day the commissioner for the burgh of Glasgow notised to the convention that several attempts had been made of late to call out the inhabitants of some of the most considerable of the royal burrows to the reparation of the high ways; that this appear'd inconsistent with their priviledges and by no means founded in law; that the whole state of burrows were concern'd in this interesting question; that he understood that the lord advocat for Scotland was preparing a bill to be laid before the next session of parliament for procureing an effectual releif against this attempt upon the rights and priviledges of the burrows; that he was perswaded the representatives of the burrows could throw out several usefull hints for promoteing the salutary purposes intended by the said bill, and therefor moved that the above-mentioned committee on the agent's accompts should by this convention be authorized to meet and conferr with the lord advocat that nothing may be wanting on their part that could contribute to the releif and security of the state of burrows against future attempts of this sort to their prejudice. Which being considered by the convention, they unanimously approve of the motion and appoint the said committee to meet and conferr with the lord advocat, and in name of the burrows doe every thing in their power for the improvement of the said bill and secureing the priviledges of the burrows.

Committee to meet with the lord advocat anent the statut work on the high roads.

15. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a petition from the magistrats and town councill of Kirkwall, setting furth the great expence that burgh had been put to in carrying on some lawsuits against the inhabitants of Stromness for their releif of

The expence laid out by Kirkwall agt. Stromness referr'd to a committee.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1756. The expence laid out by Kirkwall agt. Stromness referr'd to a committee.

the tax roll; that these processes had been carry'd on in virtue of appointments of the convention, which was eventually to releive the burgh of Kirkwall in the case of their being unsuccessfull; that the losses sustain'd by the lawsuit and Stromness refuseing to pay their share of the tax roll laid on Kirkwall as formerly had reduced them to great difficultys, and occasioned their incurring a large arrear of cess and missive dues far beyond what they were able to pay; and that they stood rated in the tax roll at least one-third beyond what they are able to make good, and therefor praying for releif in the premisses, particularly to have their quota in the tax roll reduced to eight shilling Scots in time comeing; that the convention would grant warrand for paying the sum of two hundred twenty-three pound seven shilling & six pence sterling expended in law suits upon the faith of the convention, and such releif as the convention should judge reasonable with regaurd to the arrears of cess and missive dues. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the premisses to the committee on the agent's accompts, and they to report.

Committee to consider the condition of the burgh of Rothesay, &.

16. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a petition from the burgh of Rothesay representing their low circumstances, and that tho their magistrats for ten years past had been endeavouring to make up a sum for repairing their harbour, the only resource this poor burrow could have for releiveing them from their distress, yet the sum so made up with any bountys they received from the neighbourhood had only enabled them to carry out their key about a hundred yeards, and that the same would stand unfinished to their utter ruine without furder assistance, and therefor praying such releif as the convention should see meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burghs of Campbeltoun, Air, Irving, & Dumbarton, or any two of them, to consider the premisses and report the same to the next convention.

17. The same day the preses represented that in the present critical circumstances of the nation most of the communitys and bodys pollitick

had made dutiful addresses to his Majesty, that he was perswaded the royal burrows of Scotland had the justest sense of the many valuable blessings enjoyed under the best of princes, and that they would joyfully embrace this opportunity when assembled together of addressing his sacred Majesty in a manner becomeing the royal burrows of Scotland. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said motion unanimously, and remit to the committee on the agent's accompts to prepare the draught of an address to be laid before them with the first conveniency.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1756.

Committee to draw an address to his Majesty.

Edinr., 7 July 1756.

18. The which day there was presented and read in the convention a commission from the burgh of Peebles appointing James Halden, their present provost, their commissioner, as also a commission from the burgh of Kilrenny appointing Andrew Waddell, one of their present magistrats, their commissioner; the convention approve of the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

19. The same day the committee to whom the accompts of John Cathcart of London, Esqr., were remitted, of the expence debursed by him in obtaining an act of parliament for the encouragment of the open boat herring and cod fishings, reported as their oppinion that the convention should appoint their agent to pay the said accompts, consisting of one hundred eighty-three pounds two shillings sterling paid to Robert Yeatts, sollicitor, and twenty guineas paid to an other gentleman who had been serviceable in that affair, and the said payment to be made to Mr Cathcart out of the next year's missive dues with the legal intrest of the said sums, makeing two hundred and four pounds two shillings sterling from and after the twenty-fourth day of May last, the date of the last debursement to the sollicitor, and that the convention should appoint their preses in their name to return thanks to Mr Cathcart for his generous behaviour in making no demand for his own trouble or expence and his great and good services for four years in

Agent to pay Mr John Cathcart £204, 2s. sterl. wt. intrest from 24 May 1756.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1756.

carrying that affair into execution. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and enact and ordain accordingly.

Mr Cathcart's plan for the herring fishing referr'd to the annl. committee.

20. The same day the said committee also reported that having considered Mr Cathcart's plan for enforceing and carrying into execution the priviledges granted by the late act of parliament for encouraging the fisherys in Scotland, they were of oppinion that the convention should remit the same to their annual committee, with recommendation to apply to the trustees for fisherys and manufactures for obtaining a grant of propper encouragment to superintendants for preserving good order, protecting the fishers, furnishing whirrys for the use of the superintendants, and what else may be deem'd necessary for secureing and carrying into execution the priviledges granted to the fisherys by the said act of parliament. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their annual committee, with recommendation to apply to the trustees for such encouragment as may enable the carrying the plan for secureing the priviledges of the said fisherys into execution.

Agent to pay George Drummond and Wm. Tod £300 each, and to pay Mr Yetts, sollicitor, £331, 5s. 11d. sterl. at London.

21. The same day the said committee having considered the accompts of the commissioners appointed by the last convention to repair to London for procureing an act of parliament for the further encouragment of the linnen trade, reported that they were of oppinion that the convention should appoint the sum of six hundred pounds sterling to be paid to them for their indemnification, vizt.:—three hundred pound sterling to George Drummond, Esqr., and the like sum to William Tod of Edinburgh, merchant, and furder that the convention should return their gratefull thanks to these gentlemen for their great and successfull services in that important affair; as also that the convention should order payment to Mr Yeatts, sollicitor, of the sum of three hundred thirty-one pound five shillings eleven pence and eight twelveths of a penny sterling, being one-third of the expence of procureing the said act of parliament, the other two-thirds being paid by the traders of England and Ireland. Which being considered by the convention, they

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Agent to pay George Drummond and Wm. Tod £300 each, and to pay Mr Yetts, sollicitor, £331, 5s. 11d. sterl. at London.

unanimously approve of the sd. report, and appoint the sincere and gratefull thanks of the convention to be returned to George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinbr., and William Tod of Edinbr., merchant, for their great & substantial services in that important affair, and appoint their agent to make up the sum of three hundred pounds sterling to each of these gentlemen; as also to make payment at London with all convenient dispatch to Mr Yeatts of the sum of three hundred thirty-one [pounds] five shillings eleven pence $\frac{8}{12}$d. sterling, being the proportion of his accompt payle. by the burrows in obtaining the said act of parliament.

[22. Agent's accompt of unfree trade audited. 23. Agent's accott. of missive dues audited. 24. Horning agt. deficients.]

Petition for New Gallaway remit to a committee.

25. The same day there was read in the convention a petition from the burgh of New Gallaway seting furth that for many years back it has been in a declineing condition both in point of trade and number of inhabitants; that by a late decree of the Court of Session takeing away the toll upon black cattell, the cheiff branch of their revenue was at an end; that their tolbooth was in a ruinous condition, in so much that a prisoner for civil debt had lately made his escape, whereby their town was loaded with a debt of ninety pound sterling; that their prison must be repair'd, and yet the community in no condition to doe the same, and therefor praying the convention to take the state of the burgh into their consideration and grant such releif as might enable them to repair their harbour. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the premisses to the committee who were on the agent's accompts to examine the same and report.

Agent appointed to concurr with Inverness agt. John Smyth.

26. The same day the convention having heard read a memorial for the gildry and freemen of Inverness bearing that one, John Smith, under pretence of being admitted a freeman burges of the burgh of Annan, had taken upon him to import into Inverness a cargo of forreign goods, which he partly retaill'd clandestinely within the town; that he pretended the being burges of Annan made him free in all the burghs in Scotland, and was now insisting on that point in a proces before the

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1756.

Agent appointed to concurr with Inverness agt. John Smyth.

Lords, in opposition, as was thought, both in the law of the land and acts of the convention, and therefor praying that the convention would appoint their agent to assist in defence of the said proces against Mr Smith, and give such advice and directions in the premisses as should appear most conducive for the general intrest of the royal burrows & releif of Inverness. Which being considered by the convention, together with a report from the commissioner of the burgh of Annan bearing that Mr Smith was no more than an honourary burges of the burgh of Annan, which would not so much as intitle him to trade there and far less to claim that priviledge in other burrows, & the convention being of oppinion that it is a manifest infringment of the rights and priviledges of the burrows, doe therefor appoint their agent to concurr in their name in support of the proces in behalf of the town of Inverness.

Report anent St Andrews referr'd to a committee.

27. The same day the convention having heard a report from the burghs of Dundee, Coupar, Anstruther Easter, and Kilrenny, in obedience to an act of the last convention, bearing that having visited the several publick entrys and passages to the city of St Andrews, they fand the same in great disrepair & almost impassible in the winter season; and further, that upon examination of a state of the patrimony of the said city, they found that its annual and accidental expence exceeded the yearly income. All which being considered by the convention, they remitt to the committee that was upon the agent's accompts to consider the said report and the act of the last convention therein referr'd to, and to report.

Petition for Fortrose remitt to a committee.

28. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Fortrose seting furth the low circumstances of the burgh, as having no common good, and exhibiting a list of unfree traders who by smugling and otherways run away with all the forreign trade in the neighbourhead, and therefor praying the convention would appoint their agent to prosecute the said unfree traders, agreeable to the seventh article of the missive; and in the mean time to grant such releif to the burgh as to the wisdom of the convention should appear just and

equitable. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee named on the agent's accompts, and they to report.

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29. The same day the commissioner for the burgh of Dumferling represented that the convention, 1752, in order to bring the weights and measures in Scotland to the legal standart, had transmitted to the state of burrows an injunction on that subject which has not hitherto been comply'd with, and therefor mov'd that in order to carry the purpose of the said injunction to execution, the convention should appoint the magistrats and town councill of every burgh in Scotland to concurr with the shirriff deput in their shyres respectively in every measure for putting the laws in execution for bringing the weights and measures over Scotland to one legal standart, and that the convention should ordain the said injunction to be punctually complyed with; and further, that against next convention the several burrows should make out a distinct table of the different weights & measures presently used, and report their dilligence therein against the next convention. Which being considered by the convention, they ordain and enact accordingly, and further appoint this act to be printed and transmitted to the several royal burrows in order to attain the valuable purposes of fixing the legal standart of weights and measures in Scotland.

Act anent weights and measures.

30. The same day the convention remit to the committee which was named for the agent's accompts to consider the present establishment, and report.

Committee on the establishment.

Edinbr., 8 July 1756.

31. The which day the convention having read the commissions from the burghs of Pittenweem, Dingwall, and Inverary, they approve of the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

32. The same day the committee to whom it was remit to consider what was propper to be done with regaurd to the question presently

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1756.

Act remiting the affair of Perth as to the statut work to the annl. committee.

depending against the town of Perth, reported as their oppinion that the convention should appoint their agent, in name of the burrows, to concurr with the burgh of Perth in prosecuting the bill of suspension presently depending before the Lords of Session concerning the statute work exigible from the inhabitants of royal burghs, and that incase the Lords refused the aforsaid bill, either on accompt of the jurisdictions being vested in the quarter sessions or from any other cause, that it would be advisable for the burgh of Perth to appeal the cause to the House of Lords, and that they should have the aid and concurrance of the convention; and furder, that it be recommended to the annual committee to take the oppinion of councill learn'd in the law on the import of the laws concerning highways made in the reigns of King Charles the Second and King George the First, whether and how far they extend to the royal burrows, as also whether by the several road acts lately past any more or other statute work is exigible from the inhabitants of burrows than what they were lyable to before passing these acts; that the committee should enquire what was the practise in Scotland with respect to statute work, before and since the Union, performable by the inhabitants of burrows, and also inquire how far the inhabitants of burghs in England, lying on turnpike roads, are by the practise there subjected to statute work; that the committee take the oppinion of the forsaid councill in what shape an action may be brought before the Court of Session for having the import of these laws of Charles the Second and George the First determined, and how far the inhabitants of royal burghs in Scotland are lyable in statut work; that the committee should give the greatest attention to the present attempts for laying the load of statute work on the royal burrows, otherways greatly overloaded; and that the committee should be authorized to countenance & defend such burrows whose inhabitants are call'd out upon statute work, and take all propper & legal measures for obtaining a declarator of immunity in their favours, incase their councill are of oppinion that by the laws now standing the burrows are thereto intitled; that the committee should be authorized to name a propper agent to take the charge of

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that affair, and if needfull that a particular convention should be call'd to deliberat on this most important subject. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and remit to their annual committee with conventional powers to put the same in execution accordingly.

Agent to pay Kirkwall £223, 17s. 6d. sterl.

33. The same day the committee upon the affair of Kirkwall reported that in their oppinion as this was a question highly interesting to the state of burrows, an appeal should be enter'd to the House of Lords against the decree of the Court of Session and the same carry'd on at the expence of the burrows; and furder, that the convention should indemnify the burgh of Kirkwall of the sum of two hundred & twenty-three pounds seventeen shillings & six pence sterling laid out in the proces agt. the inhabitants of the village of Stromness, with annual rent from this date, and that the consideration of the other points in the petition for the burgh of Kirkwall should be reserved till the issue of the appeal. Which being consider'd by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to pay to the burgh of Kirkwall the said sum of two hundred and twenty-three pound seventeen shillings & six pence sterling, how soon the funds of the convention will admit thereof, with ye legal intrest thereof from the date of this act, and authorize their annual committee to give the propper directions for raiseing and carrying on the said appeal.

Agent to pay sallarys, &.

34. The same day the committee appointed to consider the establishment reported their oppinion that the same should be continued as it now stands for one year longer. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr William Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterling of sallary; to his Majestie's advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archd. M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, fifty pounds sterling,

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1756. Agent to pay sallarys, &.

of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, twenty pounds sterling for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next; to Allan Whitfoord, genl. receiver, twenty pound sterl. for his clerk's sallary; to George Ross, Esqr., agent for the burrows at London, twenty-five pound sterling of sallary; to George Lindsay, dept. clerk, twenty pound sterling of sallary; to John Blair, as recorder, thirty pounds sterling of sallary; to John Middlemist, burrow officer, twenty pound sterling of sallary, and four pound sterl. of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the clerk of the burrow aeque, sixty pounds Scots; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pound Scots; to Patrick Borthwick, under keeper & cryer, eighteen pound Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pound Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pound Scots; and to Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, sixty pound Scots of supply.

New Gallaway's petition referr'd to a committee.

35. The same day the committee on the affair of New Gallaway reported that the same should be remit to the burghs of Dumfreise, Wigtoun, Stranraer, and Kirkudbright, and they to report to the next convention. The convention approve of the said report and appoint the said burghs, or any two of them, to enquire into the particulars set furth by the burgh of New Gallaway, and to report to the next convention.

Fortrose petition referred to the annl. committee.

36. The same day the committee on the affair of Fortrose reported their oppinion that the same should be remit to the annual committee, with conventional powers to them to doe therein as they shall see cause. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and remit the same to their annual committee with conventional powers accordingly.

St Andrews petition dismissed.

37. The same day the committee on the affair of St Andrews reported their oppinion that the convention should refuse their request for repairing the streets and avenues to St Andrews at the publick

charge. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and dismis the application accordingly.

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38. The same day the convention having heard a memorial in behalf of Charles Stuart, deputy conservator of the Scots priviledges in Campvere, relative to a proces raised agt. him before the Court of Session by some of the staple factors there, and praying the countenance and aid of the convention for supporting him in the exercise of his jurisdiction and releif against an oppressive proces raised agt. him for what he apprehended to be his duty. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Memorial for the conservator dept. referr'd to the annl. committee.

39. The same day the convention having heard read a memorial relative to the fees paid in exchequer at procureing a quietas for few dutys, with some proposall for accommodating that matter with the exchequer or otherways deviseing a method for lessening the expence of the burrows at fitting their aeques. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Fees in exchequer referr'd to the annl. committee.

40. The same day the convention having heard read a memoriall relative to the conduct of the excise officers in carrying on prosecutions before the court of exchequer, contrair to the supposed intent of the legislator, whereby such processes meant to be summarly decided before the justices of peace had become verry burdensom to the leidges and a great hinderance to them in the course of bussiness, & therefor praying that the convention would take such measures for releif of the country in this matter as to them in their wisdom should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to their annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Memorial concerning the excise officers referr'd to the annl. committee.

41. The same day the committee appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hading-

Annual committee chosen.

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Annual committee chosen.

ton, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Brechin, Dumferling, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Elgin, Tain, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Rothesay, Forres, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Lochmabin, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Queensferry, Fortrose, Inverary, and Stranraer as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree trade and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such cases as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impowered to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade and the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write on that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the twenty-sixth act of the convention in July iajvij & and thirty-four; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be to-morrow at twelve a cloak in the forenoon in the councill chamber of Edinburgh, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before

them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1756.

Annual committee chosen.

42. The same day the committee appointed to draw ane address to his Majesty presented the same. Which being read, the convention unanimously approve thereof, and appoint their preses to sign the same in their name, and to transmitt it to his grace the Duke of Argyle to be by him presented to his Majesty, and of which address the tenor follows:—

Address to his Majesty approven.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty, the humble Address of the Royal Burrows of Scotland.

Wee, your Majestie's most dutyfull subjects, the members of the royal burrows of Scotland assembled in annual convention, beg leave to express those sentiments of loyalty and duty with which our hearts are fill'd from your Majestie's benign and just administration. The incroachments of the French in America, and their infringment of the most solemn treaties, have oblig'd your Majesty to engadge in a just and an honourable war for the preservation of the Collonys, the protection of trade, and for repressing that ambitious power which has so often disturbed the publick tranquillity of Europ. The vigour of your Majesty's councills has been seconded by the national spirit, which has display'd itself in the unanimous zeal and ardour with which all ranks of men have concurr'd in the publick measures; those who have enjoy'd the blessings of your Majestie's auspicious reign are sensible of the inestimable priviledge of living under a free and legal constitution, and will contribut all their efforts to the support and defence of your Majesty's government.

The royal burrows of Scotland have reapt the benefit of the many salutary laws enacted for the advantage of commerce and the encouragmt. of industry; in common with the rest of the subjects they have shared your Majesty's paternall care, prompted therefor by every

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1756.

motive of interest, gratitude, and duty, they beg leave, most gracious Soveraign, upon this occasion to repeat the assurances of their unfeign'd loyalty and inviolable attachment to your Majesty's sacred person and government.

Edinbr., 8th July 1756. Sign'd in presence & by appointment of the convention of the royal burrows of Scotland.

Convention dissolved.

43. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at the burgh of Edinbr. upon the first Tuesday of July iajvij & and fifty-seven years, and appoints their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

9 July 1756.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1756. Sederunt.

Edinbr., James Grant, preeses; Glasgow, George Murdoch; Perth, John Robertson; Aberdeen, William Mowat; Montrose, David Doig; Kirkaldie, George Drysdale; Coupar, George Bethune; New Galloway, George Muir; Innerkeithing, John Cunningham; Inverness, John Fraser; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Rothsay, Alexander M'Millan; Kirkwall, John Riddoch.

The which day the annual committee elect James Grant, present dean of gild of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day the committee having taken under their consideration the several remitts made to them by the last convention, and particularly the thirty-second act of the convention with respect to the affair of Perth and the intrest of the burrows in general, to prevent, if possible, their being subjected to statute work on the late turnpike acts, appoint

their agent to compear on Twesday next, and in name of the burrows concurr in supporting the bill of suspension for the town of Perth; and in order to attain the other purposes contained in the remitt, do nominate and appoint John Davidson, writer to the signet, to be agent for the burrows in this particular affair, and authorize him to employ Messrs Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr Thomas Miller, along with the council for the town of Perth, upon the points contain'd in the said act of the convention in the event of the questions being given against the town of Perth, and in the mean time to engage Messrs Williamson and Miller for the burrows. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1756.

The same day the committee having considered the remitt contain'd in the thirty-eight act of the convention relative to the complaint made by Charles Stewart, deputy conservator, against Mr John Gregory and Mr James Turin, two of the staple factors, do appoint their officer to serve these gentlemen with copys of Mr Stewart's memorial and representation, and ordain them to lodge their answers with the clerks on or before the third Twesday of November next.

6 August 1756.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preeses; Edinr., James Grant; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Lanerk, William Wilson; Elgin, William Forbes; Air, Andrew Hunter: Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Sanquhar, Alexander Goldie; New Galloway, George Muir; Culross, John Dalgleish. Sederunt.

The which day the committee elect George Drummond, Esquire, lord provost of the city of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the burrows, represented to the committee that by the twenty-first act of the last general convention he is appointed to make payment at London with all convenient dispatch to Mr Yeats, sollicitor, of the sum of three hundred and thirty-one pound five shillings eleven pence eight-twelths of a penny

EDINBURGH. 6 August 1756.

sterling, being the proportion of his accompt payable by the burrows for procureing an act of parliament for the further encouragement of the linnen trade; that at present there was no funds in his hands for paying said sum, on the contrair, he was in advance for the burrows, and as it was evident from the said act of convention that Mr Yeats should be paid as soon as possible, it was necessary that the committee should authorize him to borrow so much money upon the credite of the burrows as will pay Mr Yeats the sum due to him, to bear intrest from the time of borrowing untill it be repaid. Which, with the forsaid act of the convention, being considered by the committee, and it being evident to them from the forsaid act that the convention intended that Mr Yeats should be paid without loss of time, therefore the committee hereby impower Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to borrow on the credite of the burrows the forsaid sum of three hundred and thirty-one pound five shillings eleven pence $\frac{8}{12}$ sterl., to be charged by him to the burrows with intrest from the time of borrowing untill payment, and appoint the agent to purchase a bill for the said sum and transmitt it to Mr George Ross, the burrows' agent at London, to be paid over by him to Mr Yeats upon a proper discharge.

23 August 1756.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinburgh, James Grant; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Dumfermling, Alexander Wedderburn; Elgin, William Forbes; Tain, David Ross; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; New Galloway, Mr George Muir; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Rothsay, Alexander M'Millan.

The which day the preeses laid before the committee a letter he had received from a great many traders in the city of Edinburgh and others to the northward, setting forth the great hazard that the ships going between London and the Firth of Forth and other towns to the north were exposed to by the privateers now when we are engaged in a war with France. Which being read, the committee appoint their preeses

in their name to apply to the lords of the admirality for proper convoys to conduct the trade between the Firth of Forth and London; and if it be agreeable to their lordships, that the commanders of these convoys be directed to take their sailing orders from the lord provost of Edinburgh, as has been the usual method in former times of war.

EDINBURGH. 23 August 1756.

The same day the commissioner for Rothsay represented that as the herring fishing upon the western coasts is now come on, the usual fishermen declined to fish for herring as they were affraid to be pressed by his Majestie's ships of war; the committee appoint their preeses to write to the lords of the admirality, and also to their secretary, for protections to the fishers and others imploy'd in the herring boats, without which the season will be lost, to the great loss of the country.

The same day the commissioner for Annan represented that Mr William Tod, merchant, one of the commissioners sent up to London to negotiat a parliamentary encouragement to the linnen manufacture, was by the twenty-first act of the last convention appointed one hundred pounds sterling over and above the sum of two hundred pound sterling formerly paid him in full of his charges in that negotiation, but that the agent was not in cash and had no funds of the burrows in his hand to pay the said sum, and it being the intention of the convention that the said sum should be immediatly paid him, therefore he moved that the agent should be authorized to borrow the same and charge intrest for it in his accompts. Which being considered by the committee, they authorize Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to borrow on the credite of the burrows the forsaid sum of one hundred pounds sterling and pay it over to Mr William Tod on a proper discharge, and to charge the same with intrest from the borrowing till payment to the burrows in his next accompts.

16 September 1756.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Dysart, William Tod; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Culross, John Dalgleish. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 16 September 1756.

The which day the preeses acquainted the committee that, in obedience to their orders mentioned last sederunt, he had wrote to the lords of the admirality for proper convoys to conduct the trade between the Firth of Forth and London, and inclosed therewith the application made by the traders of this city to the committee; that he had also wrote for a general protection to those imployed in the open-boat herring ffishing; in answer to which he received a letter from Mr Clevland, their lordship's secretary, acquainting that their lordships have taken up a ship to be imploy'd as an armed vessell to convoy the trade as desired, and their lordships were to direct the commander of her to advise with the provost of Edinburgh as to the time of his sailling and returning, and besides this vessell they were to appoint other convoys as occasion may require; that their lordships have likewise given orders to the captains of his Majestie's ships on the west coast of Scotland not to molest the people imployed in the herring fishery there, provideing they are duely protected, which protections their lordships were willing to grant in the same manner as last year. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their preeses in their name to write to Mr Clevland and return their thanks to their lordships for granting proper convoys to the trade between the Firth of Forth and London, and to beg that their lordships will grant a general protection to those imploy'd in the open-boat herring fishing as was done in the iaivij & and fourty-one and fourty-two.

The same day there was presented and read to the committee a memorial for the burgh of Kirkwall craving that, agreeable to the act of the last general convention, the committee would give directions for carrying on the appeal against the decree of the Court of Session in the process at the instance of the town of Kirkwall against the unfree traders of Stromness; and for that end to name a proper agent for carrying on the said appeall, and to appoint their agent to extract the decree of the Court of Session and to lodge it with the other necessary writes in the agent to be named, his hands, so as the appeal may be

brought in to parliament early next session. Which, with the forsaid act of the convention, being considered by the committee, they appoint George Ross, Esqr., agent for the burrows at London, to carry on the said appeal at the expence of the burrows, and for that end appoint Mr Hugh Forbes, the burrows' agent, to cause extract the decree of the Court of Session in relation to that affair, and to lodge the same with the other necessary writes for discussing the said appeal with the said Mr Ross so as he may prosecute the same with all convenient dispatch.

EDINBURGH. 16 September 1756.

1 December 1756.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinr., James Grant & James Forrester; Air, Andrew Hunter; Elgin, William Forbes; Culross, John Dalgleish; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Forfar, Mr John Campbell.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee elect Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day Mr Hugh Forbes, agent for the burrows, acquainted the committee that, agreeable to the minute of last sederunt, he had cause extract the decree of the Court of Session in the process at the instance of the town of Kirkwall against the unfree traders of Stromness, and had wrote to George Ross, Esqr., the burrows' agent at London, to prosecute the appeal; but Mr Ross had not as yet taken out the write of appeal on account of a letter he had received from Mr David Anderson, agent for the town of Kirkwall, desireing him not to proceed further therein untill he should have further instructions from the committee. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint Mr Forbes to write to Mr Ross by to-morrow's post and desire him to take out the write of appeal as soon as possible, so as the same may be discussed as early this session of parliament as the forms of the house will allow of.

28 December 1756.

EDINBURGH. 28 December 1756. Sederunt.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinr., James Grant; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Elgin, William Forbes; Air, Andrew Hunter; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; New Galloway, George Muir.

The which day the preeses laid before the committee two letters he received from Robert Christie, Esqr., provost of Glasgow, of date the tenth and twenty-fourth of December instant, proposing that as the honble. the House of Commons had appointed a committee of their number to consider of some proper expedient for preventing the high price of grain, the committee should in name of the burrows apply to the house suggesting some proper remedy for supplying the country with grain during the present scarcity, particularly the taking off all dutys on grain imported, wither from the plantations or else where. Which being considered by the committee, and being deeply affected with the calamitous circumstances of the country from the present high price of grain, they appoint their preeses to write to George Ross, Esqr., the burrows' agent at London, directing him in their name to prefer a petition to the House of Commons praying that the dutys on grain of all sorts imported into Britain may be taken off while the high price thereof continues; and also to write in their name to the members of parliament requesting them to give their utmost attention to this matter which is of the greatest importance to their country in general.

18 January 1757.

Sederunt

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., James Forrester; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Lanerk, William Wilson; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; New Galloway, George Muir; Rothesay, Alexander M'Millan.

The which day the preeses acquainted the committee that upon information from several of the merchants here of a Dutch doggers

EDINBURGH. 18 January 1757.

having hover'd on the coast for some time, and then went away the day before the trade saill'd for London and Holland, which made them apprehend her to be a spy, he had sent notise thereof by express to the lords of the admirality, in order that they might take such measures for the protection of the trade as they should think proper; in answer to which he received a letter from Mr Clevland, their lordship's secretary, assuring that their lordships will take every proper measure for protecting the trade. Which being considered by the committee, they approve of the preeses' conduct in this affair, and appoint their agent to pay the expence of the express.

The same day the preeses laid before the committee a letter he received from George Ross, the burrows' agent at London, inclosing a copy of the resolution of the honble. the House of Commons with respect to the taking off the duty upon foreign corn imported into this kingdom for a limitted time, and permitting such foreign meall, bread, and biscuit as hath been or shall be taken from the enemy to be landed and expended in this kingdom duty free for a limitted time, and which was thought to be a speedy remedy for reduceing the present high price of corn and bread, and acquainting that the house had ordered in a bill to that purpose which was to be extended to Scotland.

The same day the preeses represented to the committee that as a corn bill was presently depending before the House of Commons, and as several difficultys had occurred in purchasing grain in England for supplying this part of the Kingdom, which might be rectified by a clause in said bill, that he had caused draw up a memorial in which these hardships were enumerated, and which if approven of by the committee might be sent up to the members of parliament so as they may have the same under their consideration. Which being read and considered by the committee, they approve of the draught of the said memorial, and appoint the same to be printed and transmitted (with a letter to the members of parliament and likewise to the peers) to George Ross, the burrows' agent, by express, earnestly recommending to them to give attention to the matters mentioned in the said memorial.

EDINBURGH.
3 February
1757
Sederunt.

3 February 1757.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses; Edinr., James Grant; Montrose, David Doig; Dumbarton, James Smollet; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Culross, John Dalgleish; Rothsay, Alexander M'Millan.

The which day the preeses laid before the committee a letter he received from George Ross, the burrows' agent at London, with copy of the resolutions of the committee of the honble. the House of Commons with respect to the buying and selling all sorts of grain by weight, &ca. Which being considered by the committee, and they being of opinion that it is a matter of great importance, they appoint their preeses to write to the magistrats of Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Dumfries, and Dunbar, desiring their opinion on this affair as soon as possible, so as the committee may judge what is propper for them to do in it.

4 February 1757.

Sederunt.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses; Edinr., James Grant & Robert Forrester; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Montrose, David Doig; Inverness, John Fraser; Dumfermling, Alexr. Wedderburn; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Elgin, William Forbes; Culross, John Dalgleish; Lanerk, William Wilson; New Galloway, George Muir.

The which day the committee having had laid before them the thirty-second act of the last general convention, the former act of the annual committee on the same subject, together with a memorial and queries for the royal burrows and the opinion of lawers thereupon, by John Davidson, writer to the signet, with respect to the laws of this country relative to the reparation of high roads and the most proper measure to be followed since the decree of the Court of Session against the burgh of Perth, finding the inhabitants lyable to perform statute work on the high roads, and being unanimously of opinion that it was of the highest importance to the whole state of burrows to exert themselves to the

utmost in order to prevent the subjecting the royal burrows of Scotland to the load of statute work in repairing the high roads, resolved that the most prudent measure to be followed in the present circumstances was to enter an immediate appeal to parliament, and that the same should be carried on at the common expence of the burrows; and recommend to their preeses to write to the lord advocate to know his lordship's opinion what further council he would chuse to be conjoined with him in conducting this important question; and appoint John Davidson, their agent in this affair, to cause prepare and transmitt a petition of appeal to George Ross, the burrows' agent at London, by to-morrow's post.

EDINBURGH. 4 February 1757.

22 February 1757.

Edinbr., James Grant & Robert Forrester; Innerkeithing, John Cunningham; Air, Andrew Hunter; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Culross, John Dalgleish; Rothesay, Alexander M'Millan; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Elgin, William Forbes.

Sederunt.

The which day John Davidson, writer to the signet, acquainted the committee that, agreeable to the minute of last sederunt, he had sent off to George Ross, the burrows' agent, a petition of appeal against the decree of the Court of Session finding the inhabitants of the burgh of Perth lyable to perform statute work in repairing the high roads; that in consequence thereof the write of appeal was sent down and served; it was also reported that the lord advocate had been wrote to in terms of the appointment of last sederunt, that his lordship had signified his inclination to have the assistance of such as were well acquainted with the laws relating to the high roads in order to facilitate the conducting of this important affair; and the committee being unanimously of opinion that this was a question of the utmost consequence to the whole state of burrows, resolve that some fitt person acquainted with the laws in this country relative to the high roads should be sent to London to agent this affair under the lord

EDINBURGH. 22 February 1757.

advocat's direction, and therefore appoint John Davidson, their agent in this affair, to repair to London with all convenient dispatch, and there to agent the appeal abovementioned at the expence of the burrows, and to imploy such council therein as the lord advocate shall think necessary; and appoint Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to advance to the said John Davidson the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds sterling in part towards defraying the expence of the said appeal; and in reguard Mr Hugh Forbes has at present no money of the burrows in his hands for paying the said sum, do therefore authorize him to borrow the same upon the credite of the burrows, and to charge it with intrest till repaid to them in his next accompts; and Provost Drummond having signified to the committee his resolution of going soon to London, they recommend to him to give his countenance and advice in any thing that may occur to him for the intrest of the burrows in relation to this affair.

The same day the preeses informed the committee that, in obedience to their orders mentioned in the minute of the third instant, he had wrote to the magistrats of the burghs of Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Dumfries, and Dunbar, desiring their opinion with respect to the buying and selling all sorts of grain by weight, and he had sent to them a copy of the resolution of the committee of the House of Commons thereupon; that in return he received letters from the provosts of Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, and Glasgow, giving it as their opinion that incase such an act of parliament was made it would be for the intrest of this part of the country that it extend to Scotland. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their preeses to write to George Ross, the burrows' agent, desiring him to petition the house incase such a bill is brought in to parliament that the same may be extended to Scotland; and if it shall take place, that the standart for selling such grain be keept by the dean of gild of Edinburgh, and to which all the other parts of the country must conform.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the thirty-second act of the convention, seventeen hundred and fifty

years, and thirty-nineth act of the convention in July seventeen hundred and fifty-one, wherein it is recommended to the annual committee when they should judge it proper to apply to the honble. the House of Commons for extending the liberty of importing barr iron from British America to the port of London, duty free, to all the ports in North Britain where the consumpt is wholly of forreign iron bought with money or bills of exchange, and as a bill is presently depending in the House of Commons with reguard to the importation of barr iron from British America to the port of London, duty free, the committee do therefore appoint their preeses to write to George Ross desiring him to petition the house that the same be extended to all the ports of Scotland.

EDINBURGH. 22 February 1757.

8 March 1757.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Lanerk, William Wilson; Elgin, William Forbes; Air, Andrew Hunter; Innerkeithing, John Cunningham; Inverary, Archibald Wightman.

Sederunt.

The which day the preeses laid before the committee a memorial for the traders of this city, representing the moving situation of their trade and the great losses they have sustain'd from the want of proper ships of fforce being stationed here to cruise from the Orkneys to St Abb's Head, and praying the committee to apply to the lords of the admirality that ships be appointed by them for that purpose, to prevent the trades being exposed to French privateers, severals of which have appear'd on the coast and some very valueable ships have been taken by them. Which being read and considered by the committee, and they being highly sensible of the great loss the trade of this country must suffer from the want of ships of force to cruise upon the coast from the Orkneys to the Firth of Forth, do therefore appoint their preeses to write to Mr Clevland, secretary to the lords of the admirality, and enclose therewith the said memorial in order to be laid before them, and beg they will appoint some ships to be station'd here to cruize upon our

EDINBURGH. 8 March 1757.

coast as mentioned in the said memorial; and appoint the preeses to forward the same by express to George Ross, the burrows' agent, so as no time may be lost in this important affair.

28 March 1757.

Sederunt.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses: Edinr., James Grant, Thomas Clelland, & Patrick Robertson; Air, Andrew Hunter; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Culross, John Dalgleish; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Elgin, William Forbes; Annan, Mr William Johnston.

The which day the preeses laid before the committee a petition which had been presented to the magistrats and town council of Edinburgh by the contributors for applying to parliament for some regulations with respect to the corn trade, with a copy of the regulations therein proposed. Which being read and considered by the committee, and they being of opinion that if the bounty on exportation of grain was made to cease, and exportation prohibited when it comes to one-half above the medium price, which in this country is reckoned at the following rates, vizt.:—wheat, twenty-six shillings the Winchester quarter; barley, fourteen shillings and eight pence a quarter; bear or bigg, ten shillings & eight pence; and eighteen shillings for a quarter of oatmeal, being two hundred and seventy-six pound English, and that when grain rises about two-thirds above these rates that the prohibition and dutys on importation should be taken off; that if this were made a standing law, the committee judge it would be highly beneficial to the country especially in times of scarcity, do therefore remitt to Mr Johnston, member for Annan, and Mr Fairholm, member for Aberbrothock, to prepare a letter to this purpose to be transmitted to George Ross, the burrows' agent, so as he may lay the particulars thereof before our representatives in parliament, that they may have it in view now when a bill is depending in the house for preventing the high price of grain, and appoint the preeses to sign and transmitt the same by Thursday's post.

22 April 1757.

EDINBURGH.
22 April 1757.
Sederunt.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., James Grant & Robert Forrester; Air, Andrew Hunter; Culross, John Dalgleish; Lanerk, William Wilson; Elgin, William Forbes; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Rothsay, Alexander M'Millan; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay.

The which day the preeses presented to the committee a memorial for the merchants of Edinburgh in behalf of themselves and other traders in Scotland, setting forth the great losses they have sustain'd in their trade by the coasts being infested with Ffrench privateers, who within these two weeks have taken a great number of captures between Peterhead & Holy Island and southward to the Humber; and for want of proper ships of force to cruize on the coast, the enemy seem to do what they please with safety and impunity, so that no vessell at present can stir upon the shortest voyage without great hazard, whereby the price of grain here, which was before so high that the poor could with difficulty subsist, has increased dayly by the high insurrance, uncertainty, and delay of coasting supplys, and even the trade and navigation of this part of the country must soon be ruin'd if a speedy and effectual chek is not given to the enemy's privateers, it being computed that they have already taken a greater value upon our coast since the first of July last than they did during the former whole four years' French war; and therefore praying the committee to make a further immediate application to the lords commissioners of the admirality, and intreat that they would be pleased to order a sufficient number of cruizing vessells upon this coast to be properly stationed in different places, and one of them in particular constantly at Holy Island, and that the commanders of these vessells be instructed to be as assiduous and active upon the stations as possible, and to make as short delays as may be in Leith Road or such other places where a number of them can be of no service; and the committee having call'd before them David Clephan, owner and super-

EDINBURGH. 22 April 1757.

cargo of the ship named "Martin and Euphan" of Leith, who made affidavit that his and another vessell load with grain for Scotland had been taken off Flamborowhead on Sunday, the seventeenth instant, by a French privateer, named "Le Duc Daumont," and ransom'd for five hundred guineas each, which privateer had likewise taken two ships the day before, one belonging to Leith and the other to Hull, the last of which had been ransom'd but the former carried, and was told by the captain of the privateer that he had taken and carried to Dunkirk seven more ransomers during that cruize, and that they had been at ancor in the mouth of the Ffirth of Forth on Sunday, the tenth of April current; and the committee having likewise call'd before them George Chalmers, merchant in Edinburgh, and Robert Arburthnot, merchant in Peterhead, who made affidavit that each of them had received letters from Peterhead giving an account that two vessells had been taken by a French privateer in sight of that place on Munday, the eleventh of April instant, the one said to be a vessell from Carolina and the other from Lisbon, and that several ships were detain'd in that port, though the wind was fair, for fear of the said privateer. All which being considered by the committee, and being highly sensible that if the trade of this country is not protected from French privateers by ships of force being stationed to cruize on our coast it must soon be ruined, do therefore appoint their preeses to write to Mr Clevland, secretary to the lords of the admirality, by express, and to enclose therewith the said memorial and affidavitts to be by him laid before their lordships, and to beg they will immediatly order some ships to be stationed on the coast to protect our trade from the enemy's privateers and save the country from famine, which must be the consequence if our supplys of grain by sea are cutt off by the enemy; and the committee perswade themselves that one ship of fourty guns and three or four smaller ones will not be thought too much by their lordships for the protection of the trade of one of the three Kingdoms, and which was done accordingly.

General Convention *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 5 July 1757.

5 July 1757.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Rochead & Thos. Clelland; Perth, James Crie; Dundee, Andrew Wardroper; Aberdeen, Alexander Robertson; Stirling, John Jeffrey; St Andrews, James Lumsdean; Glasgow, Robert Christie; Air, Andrew Slowan; Hadingtoun, Robert Thomson; Dysert, David Reddie; Kirkaldie, Andrew Inglis; Montrose, James Bisset; Coupar, George Bethune; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnston; Dumfreise, Robert Maxwell; Inverness, John Hossack; Bruntisland, Samuel Charters; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Molison; Irving, Mr William Cunningham; Jedburgh, James Winter; Kirkudbright, Robert Nasmyth; Pittenweem, Thomas Martin; Dumferling, Alexr. Wedderburn; Anstruther Wester, Robert Hunter; Selkirk, William Currer; Dumbarton, James Smollet; Ranfrew, James Campbell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, John Gardner; Peebles, James Haldan; Craill, John Oliphant; Tain, David Ross; Culross, Robert Geddes; Banf, Alexander Innes; Whithorn, Hugh Hathorn; Forfar, John Ure; Forress, Thomas Brodie; Rutherglen, Robert Spence; North Berwick, Hew Lauder; Lauder, James Romainous; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmabin, John Dickson; New Gallaway, George Muir; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Wick, George Sutherland; Inverbervie, Thomas Chrystie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Campbeltoun, Mr John M'Neill; (thirteen burrows *blank*).

Preses chosen.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect Robert Montgomry, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted and gave his oath *de fideli*, and qualify'd himself to his Majesty King George the Second as the law directs.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1757.

2d art. of the missive read.

2. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read according to appointment.

Committee on the commissions.

3. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Bruntisland, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Lanerk, and Stranraer as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to the convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the same; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualify'd did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and subscribing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—James Reochead, commissioner for Edinburgh; Robert Chrystie, commissioner for Glasgow; Robert Maxwell, commissioner for Dumfreise; & James Harswell, assessor for Jedburgh.

Commissions approven.

4. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard and considered the commissions for the burghs of Stirling, St Andrews, Anstruther Easter, Inverness, Kinghorn, Brechin, Irving, Jedburgh, Kirkudbright, Pittenweem, Dumferling, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Craill, Tain, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Forfar, Rutherglen, North Berwick, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmabin, Queensferry, Inverury, and Wick, were of oppinion that the whole commissions both of the commissioners and their assessors should be sustain'd. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.: James Romanous, commissioner for Lauder; Robert Nasmyth, commissioner for Kirkudbright; William Dickson, commissioner for Lochmabin; Willm. Cunningham, commissioner for Irving, & Robert Reid, his assessor.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1757.

Coppy of the trustees' report presented.

5. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the commissioners & trustees for manufactures in Scotland, a coppy of the report made by the said commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last ; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in ane accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' orders from the 25th of December 1755 to the 25th of December 1756, both which were ordered to lye upon the table for the perusal of the members.

Commissions approven.

6. The same day the convention having heard the commissions from the burghs of Campbeltoun appointing Mr John M'Neill, advocat, to be their commissioner, and Mr John Campbell, shirriff of Forfar, assessor, as also the commission from the burgh of Inverkeithing appointing Mr John Cunningham, advocat, their present provost, commissioner, and the right honble. Robert Dundas of Arnistoun, Esqr., his Majesty's advocat, assessor, as also the commission from the burgh of Hadingtoun appointing Messrs Robert Thomson, present provost, to be their commissr., and Henry Hepburn, one of the present baillies, assessor, with the commission from the burgh of New Gallaway appointing George Muir, Esqr., of Cassencarie, their commissioner, and the commission from the burgh of Aberbrothock appointing Messrs John Gairdner their commissioner and Adam Fairholm, mercht. in Edinr., to be assessor, they approve of the said commissions.

Annual missive remit to a committee.

7. The same day the convention having heard the annual missive read in their presence did remitt the same to the consideration of the committee on the commissions formerly named, together with the commissioners for the burghs of Stirling, Kinghorn, Banf, & Annan, & they to report.

Proceedings of the annl. committee read & delay'd.

8. The same day the convention heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence, but superceded giveing any oppinion thereupon till to-morrow.

9. The same day there was presented to the convention by Mr

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1757.

Agent's accotts. committed.

Hugh Forbes, their agent, his accompts of unfree trade and missive dues; at the same time Mr Fforbes presented two accompts to the convention due to Mr George Ross, their agent at London, the one relative to the corn bill, the extending the bar iron bill to Scotland, and the other matters therein contain'd, and the other relative to the appeal of the burgh of Perth with respect to the inhabitants being called out to repair the high roads, and at the same time represented that he had not yet received in the accompt of John Davidson, agent appointed by the annual committee for managing that affair at London; the convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Stirling, Dundee, Montrose, Dumfermling, Bruntisland, Kinghorn, Dumfreise, Air, & Kirkudbright to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock to audit and examine the said accompts and report to the convention at their meeting to-morrow afternoon.

Edinbr., 6 July 1757.

Heads and articles of the missive continued.

10. The which day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the present annual missive reported that in their oppinion the following variation should be made upon the first article in order to enforce the execution thereof by abateing the penaltys, vizt.:—That the penalty on the respective burghs not electing their members or assessors according to the rules prescribed by the platform shall in time coming be restricted to ten pound sterling, and that the penalty on the member or assessor accepting of a commission and not qualifyed in the terms abovewritten shall be restricted to five pound sterling, and that over and above voiding their commissions and incapacitating the burgh offending from having any representative dureing the sitting of the convention; and furder, that the convention should pass an act certifying the burrows that hereafter the general convention will strictly enquire how far this article thus amended has been observed, and in terms thereof ffyne and amerciat the burgh offending and member or assessor accepting when not qualifyed according to the rules of the platform, and enjoin their agent strictly to

levy such fine, and that this should always be a part of the missive. That having read and considered the several other heads of the missive they were of oppinion that the same should be continued for one year longer. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the alteration made on the first head of the missive, and enact & ordain accordingly; and also approve of the whole other heads and clauses thereof and appoint the same to be continued heads of the missive; and that the tax roll as it stands at present be continued one year longer, untill July one thousand seven hundred & fifty-eight years.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1757.

Heads and articles of the missive continued.

11. The same day the committee upon the missive reported that in order to attain the salutary purposes of an uniformity of weights and measures the convention should appoint their clerks to write to the several royal burrows to transmit, on or before the first of October ensuing, to the next annual committee an exact accompt of their weights and measures and what proportion they respectively bear to the legal standart established by the law of Scotland before the Union, and that the annual committee should be appointed to take the most prudent methods for preparing a propper plan on that subject to be laid before the next general convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report & ordain & enact accordingly.

Annl. committee to prepare a plan for adjusting the weights and measures to be laid before the next convention.

12. The same day the convention having considered the commissions from the burgh of Inverbervie appointing Thomas Chrystie, one of the present baillies, their commissioner, and John Brodie, also present baillie, assessor, and the commission from the burgh of Peebles appointing Mr James Halden, present provost, their commissioner, as also the commission from the burgh of Kirkaldie appointing Mr Andrew Inglis, one of the present baillies, commissioner, and Mr John Wilson, town treasurer, to be assessor, they approve of the said commissions.

Commissions approven.

[13. Accott. of missive dues resting by particular burrows.]

14. The same day there was presented and read a report of the committee appointed by the twenty-fifth act of the last general conven-

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1757. Report as to the low state of New Gallaway delay'd.

tion relative to the low state of the annual revenue of the burgh of New Gallaway and the ruinous condition of their tolbooth or prison, with an estimat of the expence of rebuilding the same. Which being considered by the convention, they, in regaurd of the high sums presently chargable upon the missive, delayed doing any thing in that matter till next convention.

Petition for Limekilns referr'd to a committee.

15. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a petition in behalf of the village of Limekilns, representing their distressed situation and praying to be exeem'd from the heavy arrears by them incurred, that the agent should be prohibited from distressing them by quartering, and that the convention would be so good as to accept of a renunciation of the contract enter'd into with the agent for the communication of trade, which they were willing to make in any shape. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the burghs of Inverkeithing, Dumferling, Culross, Bruntisland, and Queensferry, or any three of them, as a committee to inquire into the facts and report to the next convention, and appoint the agent to discontinue quartering upon the said burgh till the next convention.

Proposalls anent the herring ffishing remit to the annl. committee.

16. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a memorial containing proposalls for removeing certain inconveniencys presently attending the herring fishings upon the West of Scotland, and particularly suggesting that the procuring a custom house to be erected at Stronoway in the Isle of Lewis would greatly contribute to that purpose; there was also read a memorial seting furth the great advantages it would be to the trade of Britain if in time of war a battery of six or eight guns were erected by the government at the port of Peterhead, Stromness, and Stornoway, to which ships of great value often resort. Which being considered by the convention, they remitt the consideration of both memorials to the next annual committee, with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

17. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a petition from the burgh of Annan seting furth that there was

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1757.

The burgh of Annan impower'd to few out or set in tacks a part the common muir at sight of a committee.

a large common muir belonging to the said burgh uncultivated, that if the same was set in long tacks or few'd out it would greatly increase the publick revenue and enable the magistrats to repair their town house and prison, and therefor praying that the convention would grant warrand to the magistrats and councill of Annan to few out in parcells or let in long tacks the whole or so much of the said common muir as could be spared without detriment to the inhabitants. Which being considered by the convention, they grant warrand to the magistrats and councill of Annan to few out in parcells or set in long tacks, and that by way of publick roup, at the sight of the commissioners for the burghs of Dumfreise, Kirkudbright, and Lochmabin, or any two of them, such parts or parcells of the said common muir as they shall judge may be spared without detriment to the inhabitants, and appoint the few contracts or tacks to be reported to the convention for their approbation.

Eodem die post meridiem.

[18. Agent's accott. of unfree trade audited. 19. Agent's accompt of missive dues audited], and of which accompt the tenor follows :—

Agent's accompt of missive dues.

Mr Hugh Forbes, agent to the royal burrows, his accompt of missive dues.

Debr.			
To the ballance of his last accompt of missive dues audited the seventh day of July 1756 - -	£3,685	0	$9\frac{2}{12}$
To one year's missive dues of the royal burrows from the 1st of July 1756 to do. 1757 - -	24,000	0	0
Sum -	£27,685	0	$9\frac{2}{12}$
			Crer.
By cash paid as the 4th moyetie of £18,000 Scots given by the convention in July 1753 to the publick buildings in the city of Edr. - -	£3000	0	0

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1757.

Agent's accompt of missive dues.

By cash to the burgh of Nairn by 35th act of the convention, 1752 - - - -	£144	0	0
By the prinle. clerk's sallary - - -	600	0	0
By the agent's sallary - - - -	600	0	0
By his servant's sallary - - - -	120	0	0
By the lord advocat, as assessor, his sallary - -	333	6	8
By his servant's sallary - - - -	60	0	0
By Archd. M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, his sallary	600	0	0
By David Flint, secretary to the trustees, for his own & clerk's sallary - - - -	960	0	0
By James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office till Whit. 1757 - - - - -	240	0	0
By Allan Whitfoord, genl. receiver, for his clerk's sallary - - - - -	240	0	0
By George Ross, Esqr., agent for the rl. burrows at London, of sallary - - - -	300	0	0
By George Lindsay, dept. clerk, his sallary - -	240	0	0
By John Blair, recorder, his sallary - - -	360	0	0
By John Middlemist, burrow officer, his sallary & gratuity - - - - -	288	0	0
By the clerk of the burrow aeque, his allowance -	60	0	0
By the keeper of the advocats' bar - - -	29	0	0
By Patrick Borthwick, under keeper and cryer, his allowance - - - - -	18	0	0
By the gardner, for flowers - - - -	12	0	0
By the keeper of the burrow room, his allowance -	15	0	0
By Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, of supply - - - - -	60	0	0
By this year's general missive - - -	36	0	0
By the agent's allowance for incidents - -	120	0	0
By sundry dispursements, pr. accompt - -	68	11	0
By cash paid for four expresses to Londn. by order the committee, £19, 14s. 6d. str. - -	236	14	0

EDINBURGH, 6 July 1757.

Agent's accompt of missive dues.

By cash paid to James Wright for dect. Stromness agt. Kirkwall - - - - -				£236	9	4
				£8,977	1	0
By cash paid for negotiations at London, pr. acts of convention, vizt. :—						
To Geo. Drummond, Esqr., for the linnen act, pr. recept - -	£140	0	0			
To Wm. Tod, mercht., for do. act, pr. recept - - -	100	0	0			
To Mr Yets, sollicitor, for do. act, £331, 5s. 11½d. & exch. £3, 6s. 4d.	334	12	4			
To Mr John Davidson to prosecut the Perth appeal at Londn. -	150	0	0			
	£724	12	4			
Annual rent paid on these advances, vizt. :—to Mr Tod, £3, 16s. 8d.; on Mr Yeats' sum, £14, 7s. 10d.; on Mr Davidson's sum, £2, 8s. 7d.	20	13	1			
	£745	5	5	8,943	5	0
By the ballance due to the agent on his accott. of unfree trade, audited of this date - -				1,347	13	9
				£19,267	19	9
Ballance due by the agent on this accompt -				8,417	1	0
Sum -				£27,685	0	9

Agent to pay to Mr George Ross £27, 9s. 8d. sterl. for the corn bill & bar iron.

20. The same day the committee to whom Mr George Rosses accompts had been remitted reported that in their oppinion the accompt relative to the corn bill and the extending the bar iron bill to Scotland should be pass'd by the convention and their agent

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1757.

Agent to pay to Mr George Ross £27, 9s. 8d. sterl. for the corn bill & bar iron;

& to charge himself with £23, 12s. 8d. sterl. in John Davidson's hand;

and Geo. Ross, his accott. of £148, 8s. 10d. for the Perth appeal rejected.

appointed to make payment of the same, amounting in whole to the sum of twenty-seven pounds nine shillings and eight pence sterling; that the accompt given in by Mr Davidson should also be pass'd, and that the convention should allow fifty pounds for his own trouble and two pound ten shillings to his clerks, and that the agent should be authorized to make payment of the accompt, amounting in whole after allowance of these two articles to the sum of one hundred and twenty-six pounds seven shillings and three pence halfpenny sterling, and that the agent should be appointed to charge himself with the ballance in Mr Davidson's hands, amounting to twenty-three pounds twelve shillings and eight pence halfpenny after deduceing the abovementioned accompt out of the one hundred and fifty pounds formerly advanced to him by order of the annual committee; and furder reported that in their oppinion the other accompt due to Mr George Ross, at London, for carrying on the appeal of the town of Perth, amounting to one hundred and fourty-eight pounds eight shillings and ten pence sterling, was not a debt wherewith the convention could be legally charged; that it was a misapprehension in the annual committee of the thirty-second act of the last convention relative to the affair of Perth to inferr that by that act the convention was to be subjected to the whole expence of carrying on an appeal on behalf of the town of Perth, and therefor that the agent should not be authorized to make payment of the said accompt, leaving it to Mr Ross to recover it in the best manner he can from the burgh of Perth. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and ordain and appoint their agent to proceed accordingly.

Proceedings of the annual committee approven.

21. The same day the convention having heard the proceedings of the annual committee read in their presence doe unanimously approve of all the parts of their conduct, except with regaurd to the appeall in the affair of Perth as if it had been a common concern of the burrows and appointed to be made by the last convention, and authorize their preses to return thanks to the committee for their great care and attention in discharging all the other branches of the trust committed to them.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1757.

Committee to enquire into the condition of Campbletown & report.

22. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a petition from the burgh of Campbeltoun representing the ruinous condition of their tolbooth, the necessity of rebuilding the same, their inability to defray the expence, and therefor petitioning the assistance of the convention for that purpose. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the burghs of Air, Irving, Inverary, and Rothesay, or any two of them, to enquire into what is represented and report to the next convention.

Representation for the society of improvers remit to a committee.

23. The same day Doctor Monro for the Edinbr. society represented to the convention that this society, constituted for the improvement of arts and sciences, had been happily begun under the auspices of the general convention of the royal burrows of Scotland; that the premiums destributed by the society had raised a spirit of industry and emulation highly beneficial as well as to the honour of the country; that it had raised the like spirit in England by a society at London much on the same plan, and who seem'd to have coppyed their procedure from the society in this metropolis; that the nobel purposes of this society could not be keept up with due vigour without a considerable expence, and their funds were extremely precarious; that it was hoped the royal burrows, whose peculiar province it was to oversee and encourage the cultivation of trade and every usefull manufacture, would continue their countenance and be ready to give their aid for the support and encouragment of so excellent an institution. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Stirling, Air, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfermling, Bruntisland, Forfar, Queensferry, Dumfreise, Kinghorn, Annan, and Dumbar as a committee to consider what is above represented, to meet to-morrow at ten a'cloak forenoon and report their oppinion to the convention.

Committee on the establishment.

24. The same day the convention appoint the abovementioned committee to consider the present establishment and report.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1757.

Report as to establishment approven, and remit to the annl. committee to apply for releif of the sallary to the clerk of the trustees & ye office rent.

Edinbr., 7 July 1757.

25. The which day the committee on the establishment reported that in their oppinion the sixty pound Scots annually paid to the clerk of the burrow aeque should be discontinued; that the annual committee should be impowered to enquire how the article for a sallary to the secretary to the trustees and the rent of their office were brought upon the establishment, and that the committee should be authorized to apply to the trustees for the improvement of manufactures in order to be releived in whole or in part as to these two articles; that the other articles of the establishment should be continued as they now stand for a year longer. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report, discontinue the sallary in use to be paid to the clerk of the burrow aeque, authorize the annual committee to enquire as to the sallary payable to the secretary to the trustees for himself and clerk and the rent of their office, and to apply to be releived therefrom, and to report to the next convention; and appoint their agent to pay the sallarys and gratuitys following, vizt.:—to Mr Joseph Williamson and Mr Wm. Forbes, prinle. clerks, fifty pound sterling of sallary; to the agent, fifty pounds sterling of sallary; to his servant, ten pound sterling of sallary; to Robt. Dundas of Arnistoun, Esqr., lord advocat, as assessor, five hundred merks Scots of sallary; to his servant, sixty pounds Scots of sallary; to Archibald M'Aulay, conservator, ffifty pounds sterling of sallary; to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for improvement of manufactures, eighty pounds sterling for his own and his clerk's sallary; to James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office at Whitsonday next; to Allan Whitfoord, receiver general, twenty pound sterling for his clerk's sallary; to George Ross, Esqr., agent at London, twenty-five pound sterling of sallary; to George Lindsay, dept. clerk, twenty pounds sterling of sallary; to John Blair, recorder, thirty pound sterling of sallary; to John Middlemist, burrow officer, twenty pound sterl. of sallary and four pound sterling of gratuity for his extraordinary trouble; to the keeper of the advocats' bar, twenty-nine pounds Scots of

Sallarys appointed.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1757.

Sallarys appointed.

sallary; to the under keeper and cryer, eighteen pound Scots; to the gardner, for flowers, twelve pound Scots; to the keeper of the burrow room, fifteen pound Scots; and to Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, sixty pound Scots of supply dureing her life.

Recommendation to the royal burrows to contribut for the purposes of the Edr. society.

26. The same day the committee appointed to consider the motion from the Edinbr. society reported as their oppinion that the convention, as the most likly method for procureing a genteel encouragment for carrying into execution the laudable plan of that society, should in the warmest manner recommend it to all the burrows in Scotland to contribute handsomly towards promoteing a scheme so wisely calculated for the improvement of arts and manufactures, the publick benefit of which has already been universally experienced. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report & recommend it to their preses to transmit a letter to the several burrows warmly recommending to each burrow to contribut gentilely towards the encouragment of a plan soe wisely calculated and so faithfully conducted for the publick benefit.

Forress's commission approven.

27. The same day the convention having heard the commission from the burgh of Forress appointing Messrs Thomas Brodie, clerk to the signet, and Lauchlan Grant, writer in Edinbr., their commissioners, they approved of the said commission.

Annl. committee to take propper measures to prevent prosecutions in excheqr.

28. The same day the convention having heard read a memorial relative to the conduct of the excise officers in carrying on prosecutions before the court of exchequer, contrair to the intent of the legislature, whereby such processes meant to be summarly decided before the justices of the peace had become verry burdensome to the leidges and a great hinderance to them in the course of bussiness, and therefor praying the convention would take such measures for releif of the country in this matter as to them in their wisdoms should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the annual committee to take the most propper measures for preventing so great ane abuse, and recommend to the committee to appoint some of their number

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1757. Annl. committee to take propper measures to prevent prosecutions in excheqr.

to wait on the commissioners of excise to-morrow forenoon in order to obtain releif to the country that some effectual check may be put to this grivance; as also that the annual committee should for the same purpose wait on the rt. honble. the Lord Cheif Barron and Barrons of Exchequer in name of the general convention, if the committee shall judge the same necessary.

Agent to concurr agt. ingrossers of corn, and the preses to write to the agent at London on that subject.

29. The same day the commissioner for the burgh of Forfar represented that the country had been greatly distressed, and many poor people reduced to the utmost difficultys, by the high price of grain; that there was reason to beleive that this was more owing to the artfull conduct of the ingrossers than any reall scarcity in the country; that it was expected the legislature would effectually interpose for preventing so great & so hurtfull an abuse, and that it was worthy of the attention of the royal burrows to contribut all in their power to promote the procureing a beneficial law on this subject extending to this part of the United Kingdom; and therefor that it should be recommended to the preses to write to the burrow agent at London to give due attention when any bill is brought into parliament on this subject, and to apply to the members for Scotland that care may be taken that nothing be omitted that can contribute to the advantage of this part of the United Kingdom in so momentuous and interesting a concern. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said motion and recommend to their preses to write accordingly; and furder appoint their agent incase any process agtt. ingrossers is brought before the Court of Session to give his concurrance in name of the burrows to the prosecuters.

Applications for money to be lodg'd two moneths before the convention, & to be sent to the burrows to be by them considered.

30. The same day the commissioner for Aberdeen moved that no application to future conventions with a view to obtain money should be regaurded except the applyers, at least two moneths before meeting of the convention, lodged their petitions or memorials with a sufficient number of printed coppys with the annual committee, to be transmitted to all the burghs in Scotland, and that the committee should be

appointed to transmit the same in order that the commissioners may come up to the convention rypely advised how to proceed. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the motion and enact and ordain accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1757.

31. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinbr., Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Coupar, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Brechin, Dumferling, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Ranfrew, Dumbar, Lanerk, Aberbrothock, Tain, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Forfar, Forress, Annan, New Gallaway, Queensferry, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine upon all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declareing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write on that behalf to their respective representatives, and likeways in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming & concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they shall have special

Annl. committee appointed wt. the usuall powers.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1757. Annl. committee appointed wt. the usuall powers.

authority for that purpose, conform to the 26 act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on Friday next at ten a cloak in the forenoon in the New Church isle, and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the said committee to choise their own preses from time to time; and in absence of their preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

Convention dissolved.

32. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at Edinburgh on the second Tuesday of July one thousand seven hundred & fifty-eight years, and appoint their clerks to direct missives accordingly. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

8 July 1757.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1757. Sederunt.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., preeses; Edinr., Thomas Clelland; Glasgow, Andrew Cochrane; Stirling, John Jaffray; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Couper, George Bethune; Air, Andrew Sloan; Inverness, John Frazer.

The which day the annual committee elect Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., to be their preeses.

The same day the committee having taken under their consideration the several remitts made to them by the last convention, particularly the twenty-eight act relative to the prosecutions by the excise officers before the court of exchequer. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint their preeses with the burghs of Edinburgh, Stirling, Coupar, Stranraer, with their agent, to waite of the

honble. the board of excise to represent the grivances complained of, and lodge an authentick copy of the memorial presented to the convention on that subject; and the commissioners of the above burghs having attended the honble. board, reported to the committee that the commissioners declared they would have a just regard to any application from so respectfull a body, and would in a short time return in writeing their resolution and judgement upon what was contained in the said memorial and had been represented to the board by the preeses to the last convention.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1757.

28 July 1757.

Edinr., James Rochead & Thomas Clelland; Air, Andrew Hunter; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Irvine, Robert Reid; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay.

Sederunt.

The which day the committee elect James Rochead, dean of gild of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day the preeses represented to the committee that in obedience to the minute of last sederunt an authentick copy of the memorial presented to the last convention relative to the prosecution carry'd on by excise officers before the court of exchequer had been lodged with the commissioners of excise, and they having given an answer to the said memorial in writeing, the preeses laid the same before the committee. Which being read, the committee referr the consideration thereof to the next annual convention.

The same day Mr Hugh Forbes represented to the committee that in obedience to the act of the last general convention he had wrote to Mr John Cathcart at London, acquainting that the money due him by the burrows for procureing an act of parliament for the encouragement of the open-boat ffishing was ready to be paid him upon a proper discharge; that in return to this he received a letter from Mr Cathcart in which he says he did not think himself bound to accept of the

Edinburgh 28 July 1757.

money at Edinburgh and thereby lose the exchange, as he advanced the money for the burrows in London, and therefore the burrows could not in justice but pay that expence with intrest of the money from the seventh of May seventeen hundred and fifty-six (at which time he advanced it to Mr Yeats) till the day the same should be paid in London. Which being considered by the committee, and they being fully satisfied that the convention intended Mr Cathcart should be repaid the money advanced by him in this affair with intrest from his advance untill payment free of all charge whatever, do therefore appoint Mr Forbes to purchase a bill for Mr Cathcart's money, with intrest from the seventh of May iaivij & and fifty-six untill the time the bill is payable in London, and to transmitt the same to Mr Cathcart upon a proper discharge, either from him or such person as he shall authorize to discharge the same, and which was done accordingly.

6 April 1758.

Sederunt.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, preeses; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Air, Andrew Hunter; Irvine, Robert Reid; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Inverness, John Frazer; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

The which day there was presented to the committee a memorial for the merchants and traders in Edinburgh and other places of Scotland, setting forth the great inconveniencys arising to the trade of this country from the want of a regular, quick, and universal intercourse by post with the capitol and south of England, &ca.; that the great north mail from London setts out on Twesdays, Thursdays, and Saturndays at twelve at night, or rather an hour later, and arrives at Edinburgh on the afternoons of the Saturndays, Mundays, and Wednesdays thereafter, which course is performed at a medium through the year in about eighty-seven hours; but five hours or thereby are lost by the mails turning aside out of the straight course twelve miles in order to pass through York, and by delay at that place, so that the course might be

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as easily performed in eighty-two hours, which would bring the mails to Edinburgh about five hours sooner on the respective days; that the mail from Edinburgh to London sets out also on Twesdays, Thursdays, and Saturndays at twelve at night precisely, is detained unnecessarly three or four hours at Berwick, the same at some other stages in Northumberland, lies generally about twenty-four hours at Newcastle, turns off the road again twelve miles to pass through York and is also detained there for several hours, by all which delays the whole course is not performed in less than about five days and a half or one hundred and thirty-one hours, so that it does not arrive at London sooner than about eleven o'clock forenoon on Mundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays respectively after the departures abovementioned; to remedy which the memorialists proposed that the mail from London be sent hereafter by the natural course which all expresses and travellors take, and should pass directly from Ferrybridge by Wetherby to Burrowbridge without turning aside to York, the bags of which city and the adjacent country may be left and taken up as conveniently at Ferrybridge or Wetherby, by which method the mails will arrive at Edinburgh in the forenoons of the above respective days about five hours sooner than it does at present; they likewise proposed that the mail from Edinburgh to London shall hereafter sett out on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at ten at night; that there be no delay at Berwick except two hours for dispatching the road letters; that no stop, unless for shifting horses, be made at any other office between Edinburgh and Newcastle, at which place the mail will then arrive so as to fall in with the usuall hours of dispatch for London; that the mail shall go the straight course from Borrowbridge to Wetherby and Ferrybridge without turning aside to York; by these means the Edinburgh mail and all the letters north of Newcastle will arrive at London two days sooner, and as early on the uswal days as at present, all which will be of very great convenience to trade and attended with no new charge to the revenue, and therefore praying the committee to make the necessary application to the right honble. his Majestie's postmaster general for remedying this great defect in the

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course of the post. Which being considered by the committee, and being sensible that it will be of very great advantage to the trade of this country if such a regulation for shortning the time of riding the mail both up and down from London were to take place, do therefore appoint their preeses to write to Mr Shelvock, secretary to the post office in London, and to enclose a copy of the said memorial, requesting him to lay the same before the postmasters general, and beg they will give orders for puting the desired establishment in to execution; as also to write to his grace the Duke of Argyle, my lord advocate, Mr Fletcher, Mr Oswald, and Mr Eliot, beging them to give their countenance and use their good offices with the postmasters general in obtaining this important regulation in favour of our country; and to transmitt the said letters to Mr George Ross, the burrow agent at London, to be by him delivered to them, and which was done accordingly.

GENERAL CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

11 July 1758.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1758. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Rochead & Thomas Simpson; Perth, James Cree; Dundee, Andrew Wardrop; Aberdeen, Alexander Robertson; Stirling, Andrew Wallace; St Andrews, James Lumsdean; Glasgow, Robert Chrystie; Air, Elias Cathcart; Hadington, Andrew Dickson; Dysert, John Whyte; Kirkaldie, Robert Whyte; Montrose, Lauchlan Morison; Couper, Dr George Bethune; Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnston, senr.; Dumfreise, Robert Maxwell; Inverness, James Rose; Bruntisland, Thomas Chrystie; Inverkeithing, Mr John Cunningham; Kinghorn, Robert Hamilton; Brechin, John Molison, junr.; Jedburgh, Alexr. Ainsley; Kirkudbright, Mr Robt. Nasmyth; Wigtoun, David M'Quhae; Pittenweem, David Loch; Dumfermling, John Wilson; Anstruther Wester, Robert Hunter; Selkirk, William Currer; Renfrew, James Campbell; Dumbar, Charles Fall; Lanerk, Robert Bell; Aberbrothock, Alexr. Keith; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Peebles, James Halden;

Craill, John Oliphant; Tain, David Ross; Culross, Robert Geddes; Banf, Alexr. Innes; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Forfar, John Ure; Rothesay, Mr Alexr. M'Millan; Forress, Mr Thomas Brodie; Rutherglen, Allan Scott; North Berwick, Mr Robert Hogg; Cullen, Mr James Philp; Lauder, John Thomson; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmaben, Robert Henderson; Sanquhar, Mr Alexr. Goldie; New Gallaway, George Muir; Dingwall, Collin M'Kenzie; Queensferry, Robert Dick; Fortrose, William M'Kenzie, Esqr.; Inverury, Mr Walter Ferguson; Inverary, Mathew M'Callester; Wick, George Sutherland; Kirkwall, John Riddoch; Inverbervie, Thomas Chrystie; Stranraer, Mr David Dalrymple; Campbelton, Mr John Campbell & Peter Stewart; (six burrows *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1758. Sederunt.

1. The which day the convention unanimously elect Robert Montgomry, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preses dureing the sitting of this convention, who being present accepted the office and gave his oath *de fideli*, he being formerly qualifyed to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance.

Preses chosen.

2. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Montrose, Anstruther Easter, Dumfreise, Inverness, Kinghorn, Brechin, Dumbar, Elgin, Culross, Banf, Whithorn, Lanerk, and Stranraer as a committee to revise the haill commissions presented to the convention; and having heard the commissions of the said committee read in their presence, they approve of the whole of them, both as to commissioners & assessors, excepting the commission to the assessor of Lanerk, which was rejected as not being in the terms of the platform; and such of the members of the said committee and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—John Carmichaell, assessor for Edinbr.; George Chalmers, assessor for Anstruther Easter;

Committee to revise the commissions.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1758.

Committee to revise the commissions.

James Rose, commissioner for Inverness; John White, commissioner for Dysert; Andrew Wallace, commissioner for Stirling; Æneas Cathcart, commissioner for Air; and Patrick Duff, commissioner for Elgin.

Commissions approven and the commissr. for Fforres and assessor of Forfar rejected.

3. The same day the committee appointed to revise the commissions reported to the convention that they having heard read and considered the commissions for the burghs of Hadingtoun, Coupar, Bruntisland, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Dumfermling, Anstruther Wester, Selkirk, Ranfrew, Aberbrothock, Craill, Tayne, Forfar, Rothesay, Forress, Cullen, Lauder, Kilrenny, Annan, Lochmaben, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Dingwall, Queensferry, Fortrose, Inverury, Inverary, Wick, Kirkwall, and Campbleton, they were of oppinion that the whole commissions both as to commissioners and assessors (excepting the commission to the assessor for Fforfar and the commission to the commissioner for Forress) should be sustained, but that the commission to the assessor for Forfar and the commission to the commissioner for Forress should be rejected, in regaurd they were not in the terms of the platform. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the committee's report; and such of the commissioners and their assessors who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George by takeing the oaths of alleadgance & abjuration, and signing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—John Bar, commissioner for Ranfrew, and William M'Kenzie, commissioner for Fortrose; and they having likeways heard a commission from the burgh of Inverary in favours of Mr Robert Campbell of Askinish, advocat, to be their commissioner, and Mr Mathew M'Alaster, mercht. in Edr., to be his assessor, they approve thereof.

Report of the trustees & their yearly payments presented.

4. The same day there was presented to the convention by David Flint, secretary to the honble. the commissioners and trustees for fisherys and manufactures in Scotland, a coppy of the report made by the saids commissioners to his Majesty at Christmas last; as also George Innes, deputy receiver general, gave in an accompt of the payments made by the receiver general in consequence of the trustees' order

from the 25th of December 1756 to the 25th of December 1757, both which were ordered to lye on the table for the perusal of the members.

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Eodem die post meridiem.

5. There was presented a commission from the burgh of Ruthglen in favours of Allan Scot, present provost of the said burgh, as also an commission from the burgh of Inverkeithing in favours of Mr John Cunningham, advocat, and Mr Henry Cunningham, physician in Edinbr., as his assessor. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of these two commissions.

Commissions to Ruthglen & Inverkeithing approven.

6. The same day the second article of the missive, relative to the missive dues, was read.

Act anent missive dues read.

7. The same day the agent presented an accompt due to George Ross, sollicitor at London, for carrying on the appeal of the burgh of Kirkwall, amounting to one hundred and seventy-three pounds ten pence sterling, and represented that he could not close his accompt because John Davidson, who was appointed agent for carrying on an appeal relative to the town of Perth, had declined paying in the ballance of the money advanced to him till such time as it was ascertain'd what should be done with respect to the bill due to George Ross in manadging the cause where the town of Perth was appellants agt. David Smyth, Esqr., and other justices of peace in the county of Perth, which last bill amounts to one hundred and fourty-eight pounds eight shillings and ten pence. The convention having considered the accompt for the appeal in behalf of the town of Kirkwall, and what was represented with regaurd to the other accompt due to George Ross, remit both to the committee on the commissions, and they to report.

Committee to consider of two accotts. presented by Geo. Ross.

8. The same day the agent produced a recept for three hundred & fourty pound sterl. granted to him by Mr Yeats, sollictor at London, as the third part of the expences of the application to parliament relating

Mr Yeats, his recept for £340 remit to a committee.

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to linnen manufactures, and which was taken credit for by the agent in his last year's accompt, which recept the convention remit to the aforsaid committee.

Proceedings of the annl. committee approven, & a committee to regulat the posts.

9. The same day the procedure of the annual committee being read, the convention approve thereof, but remit to the committee underwritten to consider of propper regulations for forwarding the inward posts of this country, vizt.:—Edinbr., Glasgow, Aberdeen, Perth, Montrose, Dundee, St Andrews, Anstruther Easter, Dysert, Kinghorn, Bruntisland, Aberbrothock, Dumfreise, & Inverness, and they to report.

Commission for Irving rejected.

10. The same day a commission from the burgh of Irving was presented and read in favours of Robert Reid, writer to the signet, as assessor for the said burgh; but in regaurd there was no commission to a commissioner for the said burgh, and that the said commission was not according to the platform, the convention therefor rejected the same.

Committee on the missive.

11. The same day the annual missive being read, the convention remit the same to the committee on the commissions, and they to report.

Commissn. to the assessor of Lanerk sustain'd.

12. The same day the convention having resumed the consideration of the commission from the burgh of Lanerk in favours of William Wilson as their assessor, and he being present and offering to depone that he is proprietor of lands within the said burgh holding burgage to the extent of three thousand merks, they approve of the sd. commission.

Memorial anent coast cockets remit to a committee.

13. The same day there was presented a memorial from several merchants, brewars, and bakers within the city of Edinbr., in behalf of themselves and others, complaining of the numberless inconveniencies and hardships by the unreasonable practise of takeing bonds and cockets on goods carry'd coast ways whereon there are no dutys payable at export. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee appointed for regulating the inward posts, to whom they add Dumbar, North Berwick, Stirling, and Elgin.

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Letter from Mr Dauber remitted to a committee.

14. The same day a letter from Richard Dauber, late secretary to the excise, addressed to the preses of the annual committee in answer to the memorial presented to the last convention in name of several persons complaining of the great expence they were put to by being subpena'd and pursued before the court of exchequer for the smallest offence or neglect, which would be as effectually and more easily done before the justices of the peace. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the annual committee with power to them to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Committee to consider a report for the burgh of New Gallaway.

15. The same day there was produced and read a report of the committee appointed by last convention to viset the prison of the burgh of New Gallaway, with an estimat of the expence for rebuilding the same and other writes relative thereto. Which, with the act of the last convention made thereanent, being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee for regulating the inward posts, and they to report.

Committee to consider a petition for Kinghorn.

16. The same day there was a petition presented from the provost, baillies, and town councill of the burgh of Kinghorn, seting furth that they had already been at verry great expence in making a commodious harbour at that place near the town of Kinghorn called the Pettycurr, and which before it be finished will occasion a far greater expence, which the burgh in its low circumstances is not able to affoorde; and therefor, and for the other causes therein set forth, praying that it might please the honble. convention to consider the premisses and give the said burgh such aid and releif as to their wisdoms should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit to the burgh of Edr., Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Montrose, Dysert, Dumbar, North Berwick, Bruntisland, and Banf to consider the petition, and to report.

Memorial for Inverness remitted to a committee.

17. The same day there was a memorial from the gildry of Inverness seting furth that one, John Smyth, had invaded the priviledges of the said burrow by bringing forreign goods to the

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1758. Memorial for Inverness remitted to a committee.

said burgh, and vending, selling, and retailing the same tho he is not a burges & gildbrother thereof, which oblidged the memorialist to lay hold upon some of these goods which he was selling & retailling; upon which the said John Smyth brought an action before the Lords of Session, in which their lordships found the seizure of the goods unwarrantable, and condemned the memorialists in the price and value of the goods confiscated and in damnadges and expences; & therefor praying the honble. convention to attend to what the memorialist humbly represented, as a matter of the most publick and general concern to the prosperity of the royal burrows, and to give such necessary directions as the circumstances of the caice does require. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the above committee to whom the case of the town of Kinghorn was remitted, and they to report.

Committee to consider a report for Campbeltoun.

18. The same day there was presented to the convention a report by the burghs of Inverary and Rothesay with respect to the condition and situation of the burgh of Campbeltoun, as appointed by an act of the last convention. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee appointed to consider the case of New Gallaway, and they to report.

Petitions for Elgin & Inverness remitt to a committee.

19. The same day there was presented to the convention a memorial for the magistrats and community of the burgh of Elgin, seting forth that in the year iajvij & and fifty-three Gilbert Barclay, late merchant in Cromarty, was incarserated in the Tolbooth of Elgin for a debt of one hundred and fourty-nine pounds ten shillings sterling, & soon after his committment was arested in prison at the suit of an other creditor for the sum of fifty pounds, but that he, having procured false keys, open'd the doors therewith & made his escape, notwithstanding the prison was sufficient and that there was no fault upon the part of the memorialists; that the creditor who incarserated him had raised an action for payment of the sum for which he was incarserated, and for damnadges and expences, before

the Court of Session, in which the Lord Ordinary found them lyable, and for payment whereof they are quite unable, they having no manner of trade belonging to the burgh; and therefor praying the convention to give them such releif in the premisses as to them should seem meet. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the committee to whom the case of the town of Inverness is remitted; as they likeways doe a petition from the magistrats and community of the said burgh of Elgin praying to authorize them to assess all persons who carry on trade in the villages of Foccabus and Garmouth, and they to report.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1758. Petitions for Elgin & Inverness remitt to a committee.

20. The same day there was presented to the convention a petition from the magistrats and town councill of Kirkwall, representing that they had been at a verry great expence in pursueing the inhabitants of Stromness for paying to them a proportion of the cess of the said burgh for their unfree trade for the releif of the said burgh of Kirkwall, and that their trade was quite decay'd and the most of it carry'd on in the village of Stromness, which pays no part of the cess; and therefor praying the convention to give the petitioners releif of the bygone cess & missive dues, amounting to the sum of two hundred & ninety-two pounds one shilling & eight pence sterling, paid by them beyond the quota mentioned in the act of convention iajvij & and fourty-eight and resolution in July iajvij & and fifty-one, and that by ordering the same to be paid from the missive at such time and in such manner as the convention should think fitt, and also to restrict their quota of the tax roll to eight shilling Scots money. Which being considered by convention, they remit the same to the above committee to whom the memorial and petition of the town of Elgin is remitted, and they to report.

Petition for Kirkwall remit to a committee.

12 July 1758.

21. The which day the convention having heard a commission from the burgh of Kirudbright appointing Mr Robert Nasmyth their commissioner, as also a commission from the burgh of Peebles appointing

Commissions approven.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1758. Commissions approven.

James Haldan, present provost of the said burgh, their commissioner, as also a commission from the burgh of Kirkaldie appointing Robert Whyte, Esquire, to be their commissioner, and Andrew Inglis, Esqr., present baillie, to be his assessor, and likeways a commission from the burgh of Pittenweem appointing Thomas Martin, one of the present baillies of the said burgh, their commissioner, and David Loch, mercht. in Leith, his assessor, they approve of the said commissions; and such of the members who were not formerly qualifyed did qualify themselves to his Majesty King George the Second by takeing the oaths of alleadgance and abjuration, and subscriveing the same with the assurance, vizt.:—David Loch for Pittenweem.

Agent to pay to George Ross £173, 0s. 10d. sterl. for Kirkwall's appeal.

22. The same day the committee to whom it was remit to consider the accompts due to George Ross for the expence of the appeal of the burgh of Kirkwall agt. Stromness reported that they having considered the said accompt, together with the act of convention in July 1756 relative thereto, they were of oppinion that the convention should authorize their agent to pay the said accompt, amounting to one hundred and seventy-three pounds ten pence sterl. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to pay the same accordingly.

Agent to pay to George Ross £148, 8s. 10d. str. for the Perth appeal.

23. The same day the committee above named reported that after considering the whole acts of the convention, 1756 & 1757, relative to the appeal of Perth and procedure of the annual committee thereupon, they were of oppinion that this convention should reconsider that part of the 20th act of the last convention which relates to the accompt due to George Ross in the cause where the town of Perth were appellants, amounting to the sum of one hundred and fourty-eight pounds eight shillings and ten pence sterling, and find that the same ought to be paid by the state of burrows, and order their agent to make payment thereof without furder delay. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and ordain their agent to make payment of the said accompt accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1758.

Mr Yeats' recept for £340 sterl. sustain'd as a voucher.

24. The same day the committee above named reported that they having considered the recepts under the hand of Mr Yeats, sollicitor at London, for the sum of three hundred and fourty pounds sterling, as the third part of the expence of the application to parliament relateing to the linnen bill agreed to be paid in behalf of Scotland, they were of oppinion that the convention should sustain the same as a sufficient voucher of that article of the agent's accompt taken credit for in the last convention. Which being considered by the convention, they sustain the same as a sufficient voutcher accordingly.

Annual missive and tax roll continued till July 1759.

25. The same day the committee to whom the consideration of the annual missive was committed reported that they having considered the several heads of the missive they were of oppinion the whole of them should be continued as they now stand for one year longer, but that to the last part of the sixteenth article, which recommends the giveing all due encouragment to the distilling & consumeing of spirits of the grouth of our native country, the following words should be added (unless when restrain'd by law). Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and continue the several heads and articles of the missive for one year longer, with the above addition to the sixteenth article, and continue the tax roll as it now stands untill July iajvij & and fifty-nine years.

The petition anent coast cockets remit to the annl. committee.

26. The same day the committee to whom it was remitted to consider the petition of the merchants, bakers, brewars, & others relative to the oppressive practise of takeing coast bonds & cockets with respect to goods going coast ways, which may be lawfully exported and for which no dutys are payable at exportation, reported their oppinion that the convention should remit the same to the annual committee, impowering them to give their countenance to any bill that might be brought into parliament for regulating that matter, and also recommend it to the next annual convention to give such releif to the gentlemen concerned in promoteing so usefull a bill as the convention should then find reasonable. Which being considered by the convention,

EDINBURGH, 12 July 1758.

The petition anent coast cockets remit to the annl. committee.

they approve of the said report, remit the petition to their annual committee, impower them to give their countenance and advice in prepareing a propper clause to be insert in any bill that might be brought into parliament for regulating that matter, and also recommend it to the next convention to give such releif to the gentlemen concern'd in promoteing so usefull a bill as the convention shall judge reasonable.

The petitions for New Gallaway & Campbeltoun delay'd till next convention.

27. The same day the committee to whom the applications in behalf of the burghs of New Gallaway and Campbletoun were remitted, relateing to the repairing or rebuilding their prisons, reported their oppinion that the consideration thereof should be delayed till the meeting of the next convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and delay the furder consideration of that matter till next annual convention.

A contribution for the harbour of Pettycure appointed.

28. The same day the committee to whom the petition from the burgh of Kinghorn was remitted reported that in their oppinion the convention should renew the twelveth act of the convention 1744, recommending a general contribution from all the burghs in Scotland for promoteing and carrying into execution soe usefull a work as the harbour called the Petticure. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and warmly recommend a general contribution from all the burghs in Scotland for promoteing so usefull a work ; and recommend it to the magistrats of the several burrows to give their countenance and encouragment to the said contribution, and to remit the sums that may be levyed to the magistrats of Kinghorn with their first conveniency.

Agent to give his concurrance to Elgin, but not at the burrows' expence.

29. The same day the committee to whom the consideration of the memorial for the magistrats and community of the burgh of Elgin was remitted, relative to a proces against them for a prisoner's escape, reported their oppinion that the convention should recommend it to their agent to give his concurrance in that proces, but that the convention should be at no expence in carrying it on. Which being

considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint their agent to give his concurrence, reserveing the consideration of the other parts of the memorial to the next annual convention.

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30. The same day the committee to whom the petition of Kirkwall was remitted, having considered the several particulars therein set forth and the acts of the convention referr'd to, reported it as their oppinion that the convention should reimburse the town of Kirkwall of the sum of two hundred and ninty-two pounds one shilling eight pence ⅓d. sterling laid out by them, which sum is composed of one-third of the land tax that should have been paid by the town of Stromness since the year iajvij & and fourty-two to the year 1758 inclusive, and one-third of the missive dues, together with one-third of sixteen pounds sterling paid to a quartering party; and furder, that in time comeing the town of Kirkwall should be rated in the tax roll at eight pence instead of twelve pence, and the remaining four pence to be charged by the agent upon the missive till such time as releif is obtain'd from the inhabitants of the village of Stromness. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the said report and appoint the agent to make payment of the above sum of two hundred ninety-two pounds one shilling eight pence and ⅓ of a penny sterling in three different moyeties,—vizt., at July 1759, July 1760, and July 1761,—with annual rent from this date to the said several terms of payment; and ordain the burgh of Kirkwall to be rated in time comeing at eight shilling in the tax roll instead of twelve shilling Scots, and the agent to charge the remaining four shilling Scots upon the missive untill releived by the inhabitants of Stromness.

Agent to pay to Kirkwall £292, 1s. 8⅓d. str. in three moyeties, wt. intrest from this date;

and to releive Kirkwall of four shilling in the tax roll.

31. The same day the agent produced a list of arrears of missive dues resting by the burrows at July iajvij & and fifty-eight, and the same was ordered to lye upon the table.

Arrears of missive dues presented.

32. The same day the agent produced his accompts of unfree trade and missive dues; and the convention remit to the burghs of

Agent's accompts and establishment committed.

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Edinbr., Glasgow, Aberdeen, Montrose, Dysert, Banff, Elgin, and Inverness to audit the same and report, as also to consider the establishment & report.

Petition for Jedburgh remit to a committee.

33. The same day there was presented and read a memorial from the burgh of Jedburgh representing the decayed state of that burrow and the debts incurred by necessary works, and praying for a releif of their stent by opening the tax roll, and such other releif as was suitable to the exigency of their case and should seem expedient to the convention; which the convention remit to the consideration of the committee on the agent's accompts, & they to report.

Petition for Limekilns remit to the annl. committee.

34. The same day there was presented and read a petition and memorial for the town of Limekilns representing their decayed state, the great arrears they had incurred for cess and missive dues, and their utter inability to make payment of the same, & praying for such releif as should seem expedient to the convention. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the same to the next annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Memorial for a custom house at Stronaway remit to the annual committee.

35. The same day there was presented and read in the convention a memorial representing the inconveniencys attending the herring ffishing in the lakes and bays near the western isles of Scotland for want of a customhouse in some centrical place for the clearance of vessells outward bound either forreign or coastways, and pointing at the advantages that would result to this beneficial branch of trade if a new customhouse was erected at Stornaway in the island of Lewes, the present customhouse being either so remote from the propper places of ffishing, or of such difficult and uncertain navigation, that the trade was thereby greatly obstructed; and therefor praying that the convention would apply to the honble. the trustees for the improvements of manufactures and fisherys in Scotland, and to the honble. the commissioners of his Majesty's customs, in order to the procureing a propper establishment for erecting a customhouse at Stronaway,

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whereby the delays and inconveniencys attending the beneficial trade of the herring fishing might be removed. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the consideration of the said memorial to the next annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

Petition for the Edinbr. society presented.

36. The same day there was presented and read to the convention a petition from the manadgers of the Edinburgh society, seting forth the advantages that had accrued to this part of the United Kingdom by a propper distribution of premiums by the society, which had roused a spirit of emulation among the farmers, artisans, and manufacturers; that the funds of the society fell far short of those of the two neighbouring Kingdoms; that the generous encouragment formerly given by the state of burrows had greatly contributed to the success of so usefull an undertaking, and praying that the convention would order such sum to be paid to the treasurer of the society as to the honble. convention should seem propper, that the same might be bestowed on premiums for promoteing usefull improvements in our native country. Which being considered, the convention, agreeable to their acts, appoint the petition to lye on their table till an other dyet.

13 July 1758.

[37. Agent's accotts. of unfree trade approven.]

Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

38. The same day the committee appointed to audit the agent's accompts reported that they having examined & considered his accompt of missive dues fand he charges himself with eight thousand four hundred and seventeen pound one shilling and two pennies Scots as the ballance due by him at auditing his last accompt, and with the sum of twelve thousand pound Scots as the year's missive dues from the first of July 1757 to the first of July 1758, and with two hundred and eighty-three pound twelve shilling six pennies Scots as the ballance in John Davidson's hand remaining of one hundred and fifty pounds sterling given him for carrying on the Perth appeal, amounting in all to twenty thousand seven hundred pound thirteen shilling six pennies $\frac{2}{12}$d.

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Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

Scots; and that his discharge amounts to seventeen thousand nine hundred ninety-seven pound sixteen shilling eight pennies Scots, whereby there is a ballance of two thousand seven hundred and two pound sixteen shilling ten pennies two-twelveths of a penny Scots due by the agent on this accompt, with which ballance the agent should charge himself in his next accompt; and find the discharge of the sd. accompt sufficiently instructed, the instructions being seal'd by the preses are left in the clerk's hands. Which report being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint their agent to charge himself with the aforsaid ballance of two thousand seven hundred and two pound sixteen shilling ten pennies $\frac{2}{12}$d. Scots in his next accompt; and of which accompt the tenor follows:—

Mr Hugh Forbes, agent to the royal burrows of Scotland, his accompt of missive dues.

			Debr.
To the ballance of his last accompt of missive dues audited the 6th of July 1757 - - -	£8,417	1	$0\frac{2}{12}$
To one year's missive dues of the royal burrows from the 1st of July 1757 to do. 1758 - -	12,000	0	0
To ballance in the hand of Mr John Davidson of £23, 12s. $8\frac{1}{2}$d. sterl. remaining in his hand of £150 sterl. given him for the Perth appeal inde.	283	12	6
Sum -	£20,700	13	$6\frac{2}{12}$

Do. Crer.

By cash paid Mr John Cathcart for the white herring act, £204, 2s. sterl., with £12, 15sh. for 15 moneths' intrest yrof. and exch. £2, 3s. 5d., in all £219, 0s. 5d. str. inde. - - -	£2,628	5	0
By cash paid the magistrats of Kirkwall for the expence of the proces agt. Stromness,			

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758.

Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

£223, 17s. 6d. & £12, 1s. 2d. of intrest, makeing in all £235, 18s. 8d. sterl. inde. - -	£2,831	4	0
By cash paid Mr George Ross, agent at London, for the corn bill and the bar iron, appointed to be paid him by the 20th act of the last convention, £27, 9s. 8d. sterl. inde. - - -	329	16	0
By cash to Do. for the expence of Kirkwall's appeall agtt. Stromness, pr. accompt - - -	2,076	10	0
By cash paid as the 5th moyetie of £18,000 given by the convention in July 1753 to the publick buildings within the city of Edinburgh -	3,000	0	0
By the prinle. clerk's sallary - - -	600	0	0
By the agent's sallary - - - -	600	0	0
By his servant's sallary - - - -	120	0	0
By the lord advocat, as assessor, his sallary - -	333	6	8
By his servant's sallary - - - -	60	0	0
By Archibald M'Aulay, Esqr., as conservator, of sallary	600	0	0
By David Flint, secretary to the trustees, for his own and his clerk's sallary - - - -	960	0	0
By James Rob, for the rent of the trustees' office till Whit. 1758 - - - -	240	0	0
By Allan Whitfoord, genl. receiver, for his clerk's sallary - - - - -	240	0	0
By George Ross, agent at London, his sallary -	300	0	0
By George Lindesay, dept. clerk, of sallary - -	240	0	0
By John Blair, recorder, his sallary - - -	360	0	0
By John Middlemist, burrow officer, his sallary and gratuity - - - - -	288	0	0
By the keeper of the burrow room, his allowance -	15	0	0
By the keeper of the advocats' bar, his allowance -	29	0	0
By Patrick Borthwick, under keeper and cryer, his allowance - - - - -	18	0	0
By the gardner, for flowers - - -	12	0	0

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758. Agent's accotts. of missive dues approven.

By Anna Kennedy, daughter to Conservator Kennedy, of supply - - - - -	£60	0	0
By this year's general missive - - -	36	0	0
By the agent's allowance for incidents - -	120	0	0
By smal depursements, pr. accompt - - -	4	16	0
By cash paid to George Ross, sollicitor, for the expence of the Perth appeal, appointed to be paid by the 23d act of this convention, £148, 8s. 10d. ster. - - - -	1,781	6	0
	£17,883	3	8
By ballance on the accotts. of unfree trade -	114	13	0
	£17,997	16	8
By ballance due by the agent on this accompt, with which he is to charge himself in his next accompt - - - - -	2,702	16	$10\frac{2}{12}$
Sum -	£20,700	13	$6\frac{2}{12}$

[39. Annl. committee to apply to be releiv'd of the rent of the trustees' office & yr. secretary's sallary.]

Committee to report the state of Jedburgh to the annl. committee.

40. The same day the committee to whom the affair of Jedburgh was remitted reported that in their oppinion, however great the distress of this burgh might be, the convention could not regularly give them any immediat releiff in consistence with the acts of convention, which require that all applications for money should be lodged with the annual committee two moneths before meeting of the convention, that notification thereof might be regularly transmitted to the several burrows; that as this regulation has not been comply'd with, the affair of Jedburgh should be delay'd till next convention. Which being considered by the convention, they approve thereof and appoint the burghs of Lauder, Selkirk, and Dumbar, or any two of them, to

examine the state of the town of Jedburgh and report to the annual committee; and recommend to the magistrats of Jedburgh to make up a state of the revenue, burdens, & debts affecting the same, and to take care that both the report from the neighbouring burghs and state of their revenues be laid before the annual committee on or before the last day of April next, that the affair may be ripen'd and regularly prepared for the consideration of the next convention.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758. Committee to report the state of Jedburgh to the annl. committee.

[41. Arrears of missive dues, & horning agtt. the deficients.]

42. The same day the convention having taken into consideration the application for the Edinburgh society, and being sensible the great benefit the country has reaped by the judicious conduct of that honble. society, they appoint their agent to make payment to their treasurer for the time being the sum of fifty guineas, to be distributed in premiums in such manner as the society shall direct and judge propper for the encouragment of usefull improvements in our native country.

Agent to pay to the Edr. society 50 guineas.

43. The same day the committee to whom it was referr'd to consider of propper regulations for forwarding the inward posts of this country reported as their oppinion that this matter cannot propperly be settled till the rideing surveyor to be sent down by the postmaster general to put in execution the improvement on rideing the maills betwixt this and London arrives in this place, and therefor that the convention should remit to their annual committee to digest and settle such regulations as they shall judge propper for forwarding the inland posts of this country. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report, and remit to their annual committee to doe therein as they shall see cause.

The inward posts remit to the annual committee.

44. The same day the committee to whom the affair of the burgh of Inverness and Mr Smyth was referr'd, reported that they having met and, in consequence of the direction of the convention, waited on the lord advocat and Mr Sollicitor Pringle and laid before them the whole case, and

Vide the last clause in this convention which explains this act.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758. *Vid.* the last clause in this convention which explains this act.

papers on both sides being read in presence of these learn'd gentlemen, they after fully considering the matter were of oppinion that this affair was clogged with so many imberassing circumstances it would not be expedient for the convention to doe any thing in it at present, with which oppinion the committee concurr'd; and were furder of oppinion that the convention should referr this affair to their annual committee, with instructions to lay before the above learn'd gentlemen the state of the priviledges of the burrows in general, in order to be advised by them if any method can be fallen on for ascertaining these priviledges and preventing future encroachments. Which being considered by the convention, they approve of the report and authorize and appoint their annual committee to proceed accordingly; and upon a representation from the burgh of Inverness, seting forth the great expence that burgh had been put to in defending the priviledges of the whole state of burrows, agreeable to the judgment of the convention in 1756 and other acts relative to the priviledges of the burrows, and praying for releif, the convention in respect that affair is not ripe, the extent of the damnadges with which the town of Inverness is charged not being as yet assertain'd, doe therefor recommend it to the next convention to take that matter under their consideration and give such releif as they shall judge reasonable; and in the mean time recommend to the burgh of Inverness to prepare a full state of the matter, and lodge the same timeously with the annual committee to prepare it for the decision of the next convention.

Petition for Inverness referr'd to the annl. committee.

Agent to assign to Elgin the unfree trade of Fochabers & Garmouth at the sight of the annl. committee.

45. The same day the convention having heard a petition from the burgh of Elgin representing the decayed state of that burgh, that the trade which would naturally fall to it was ingrossed by the unfree traders of Fouchabers and Garmouth by reason of their nearness to the sea. Which being considered by the convention, they appoint their agent at the sight of the annual committee to assign the said burgh to the unfree trade of Fochabers and Garmouth and neighbourhood adjacent thereto, and impower the magistrats at the charge of the burgh of Elgine to prosecut the said unfree traders, and apply what shall be

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758

Agent to assign to Elgin the unfree trade of Fochabers & Garmouth at the sight of the annl. committee.

received from them for the use of the said burgh, with this express provision, that the convention shall be put to no charge in prosecuting this act or relative thereto, and that the whole expence thence ariseing is to be defrayed solely by the burgh of Elgin, and this to continue till July 1759 and thereafter till recall'd by the convention, nor any demand on the state of burrows for any deficiency that may arise from the unfree trade to be assign'd.

The service of royal burrows on the turnpike roads remitt to the annl. committee.

46. The same day a motion was made to the convention importing that it was greatly the interest of the state of burrows to advert to the many attempts lately made in order to subject the whole royal burrows in Scotland to the servitude of performing statute work in repairing the high roads to the utmost limits of the respective countys where such burghs are situat; that in England no person is chargable with such service beyond the limits of the parosh where they reside; that if the like limitation took place in Scotland, this new burden would be lightly felt by the burrows; that turnpike roads were a novelty in this country, and there was reason to beleive that coppying the style of the English acts in frameing the bills for turnpike roads in Scotland had drawn this burden upon the burrows; that the consent of burghs to such bills were obtain'd without adverting to the consequences, or care taken if the laws of England in this subject was to be adopted that the salutary regulation should also be introduced of freeing the burrows from such service beyond the limits of their respective paroshes; that it was not presumed the burrows would have joined or tamely yeilded to any application to parliament for turnpike roads had the consequences drawn from these acts contrair to the former practise of the nation been foreseen; that the burrows repair the streets & avenues within their royaltys without aid from the countys, whence it appear'd highly unequall to call out their inhabitants to the county roads, especially as they pay the greatest part of the tolls destined for the reparation of these roads, the same being charged on the carriages imploy'd in provideing necessarys to the inhabitants of the royal burrows and by them repay'd; and therefor it

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758.

The service of royal burrows on the turnpike roads remitt to the annl. committee.

was moved that the convention would remit to their annual committee to deliberat upon the most propper measures for releif of the royal burrows, and prepare a report on that subject to the next convention. Which being considered by the convention, they remit the consideration of this matter to their annual committee, and recommend it to them to prepare a report on that subject to ye next convention.

Annual committee appointed with their usual powers.

47. The same day the convention appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Anstruther Easter, Dumfreise, Inverness, Bruntisland, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Wigtoun, Pittenweem, Selkirk, Dumbarton, Dumbar, Lanerk, Whithorn, Aberbrothock, Elgin, Tain, Rothesay, North Berwick, Cullen, Annan, Sanquhar, New Gallaway, Dingwall, Queensferry, Fortrose, Inverury, Inverary, Stranraer, and Campbeltoun as a committee to sit after dissolving this present convention, and to proceed in, consider, and determine all and every particular that has been remitted to them by this present convention, and particularly upon every thing tending to the benefit of trade and of the state of burrows, and upon all differences that has arisen or may arise in burrows or between burrows, and upon every thing concerning the staple port and due observance thereof, and upon every thing concerning unfree traders and the communication of trade; declairing that five shall be a quorum in every matter except in such caices as shall require any application to parliament wherein nine shall be a quorum; and furder, the annual committee are hereby directed and impower'd to correspond with the burrows' representatives in parliament concerning trade or the state of burrows, and that they give notise of the particulars of such correspondance to the several burrows soe as that the burrows may write in that behalf to their respective representatives, and likewise in all matters whereto applications to the parliament shall be by the annual committee thought necessary, that all the members of the committee shall by a circular letter have notise of the particulars that they may attend and assist in forming and concerting such applications, if the nature of the thing can admit of so much

delay; but the annual committee shall in no case have power to dispose of any of the burrows' money except where they have special authority for that purpose, conform to the 26th act of the convention in July 1734; and the convention appoint the first meeting of the annual committee to be on Ffriday next at eleven of the clock in the forenoon in the council chamber of Edr., and declair that every member of this present convention shall have priviledge to be present at all the meetings of the said committee, and to vote in all matters that shall come before them, with power to the committee to choise their preses from time to time; and in absence of the preses they authorize their clerks to call a meeting upon any emergent.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1758. Annual committee appointed with their usual powers.

48. The same day the convention dissolve this present convention and appoint the next annual convention to meet and be held at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the second Tuesday of July iajvij & and fifty-nine years, and appoints their clerks to direct missives accordingly.

Convention dissolved.

The convention before signing the books observed that the 44th act, with respect to the affair of Inverness, was exprest soe as to give reason to beleive that the convention meant to signify their sense that the town of Inverness should be releived by the next convention, whereas no more was meant nor intended but to recommend it to the next convention to take that affair under their consideration and doe therein as they shall see cause; and this the convention declair to be their sense of the said fourty-fourth act, and this explanation to be annext to any extract to be given of the aforsaid act. [Follows signatures.]

MEETINGS OF ANNUAL COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

14 July 1758.

Robert Montgomerie, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinr., James Rochead and John Carmichaell; Perth, William Stewart; Glasgow, Robert Christie; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Innerkeithing, Henry Cunningham; Dumfries, Robert Maxwell; Air, Andrew Hunter;

EDINBURGH. 14 July 1758. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 14 July 1758. Sederunt.

Anstr. Easter, George Chalmers; Kirkwall, John Riddoch; Dysert, George Drummond; Elgin, Patrick Duff; Pittenweem, David Loch.

The which day the annual committee elect Robert Montgomerie, Esquire, present lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day the committee having taken into their consideration the several remitts made to them by the last convention, and particularly the thirty-nineth act of the said convention, whereby it is remitted to them to enquire how the sallary payable to David Flint, secretary to the trustees for improvement of manufactures, and the rent of their office, payable by the burrows, were brought upon the establishment. The committee remitt to the preeses and members for Edinburgh to enquire in to that matter, and to meet with the trustees and endeavour to get the burrows releaved in whole or in part as to these two articles, and they to report to the committee.

The same day the committee having considered the fourty-fourth act of the convention relative to the burgh of Inverness, they remitt to Mr Hugh Forbes, their agent, to prepare a memorial relative to that affair, and to lay the same before the committee so as that matter may be timeously prepared for the consideration of the next annual convention.

The same day the committee having also taken into their consideration the fourty-fifth act of the said convention whereby Mr Hugh Forbes, the agent, is appointed at the sight of the committee to assign in favours of the burgh of Elgin the unfree trade of the villages of Fochabers and Garmouth and neighbourhood adjacent for the behoof of the said burgh of Elgin, the committee appoint the agent to assign the said unfree trade in favours of the burgh of Elgin in the express terms of the said act of convention.

29 December 1758.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinr., preeses; Edinbr., James Rochead and Thomas Simpson; Lanerk, William Wilson; Air

Andrew Hunter; Innerkeithing, Henry Cunningham; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay; Inverary, Mr Robert Campbell; Anstr. Easter, Andrew Hunter; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm.

EDINBURGH. 29 December 1758. Sederunt.

The which day the committee elect George Drummond, Esqr., lord provost of Edinburgh, to be their preeses.

The same day the preeses acquainted the committee that in consequence of their application in April last for expediting the course of the post to London, the postmasters general had been pleased to appoint Mr Wilson, their surveyor, to come here in order to carry the plan into execution; that Mr Wilson having arrived some days ago, the preeses, as was concerted at last convention, had given immediate notice thereof to the provost of Glasgow; and that George Murdoch, Esqr., late provost of that city, was appointed to co-operate with them in so far as concern'd the intrest of that city in the said matter; that the preeses, Provost Murdoch, and some of the merchants in this city have had several meetings with Mr Hamilton, the general post master of Scotland, and Mr Wilson on this affair; and in order that the arival of the mail at Newcastle might coincide with the departure of the maill from thence to London, and not delay the present time of the mail's arival at the London office, it was Mr Wilson's oppinion the mail from Edinburgh should set out on Mundays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at no later hour than eight at night, tho' even in this event the mails from this country might sometimes, during the course of the winter season, be too late of ariving at Newcastle, and consequently lye there till next post day; the preeses further represented that in order to bring the letters from the West so as to be dispatched by the London mail on the Munday night, Sunday would become the post day at Glasgow, the inconveniency whereof to a place of so great trade and bussiness was strongly insisted on by Mr Murdoch; to remedy this, it was proposed that an extraordinary courier should set out from Glasgow by Whitburn on Mundays at nine or ten of the clock forenoon, so as to arive at

EDINBURGH. 29 December 1758.

Edinburgh in the afternoon of that day in proper time to have the letters dispatched with the London mail, and it occurred to them that the trade of that city would be greatly accommodated by these couriers returning to Glasgow on the Wednesday evening with the letters from the South, at a very small additional expence to the revenue; the preeses further represented that in order prevent any delay in the execution of this schem, Mr Hamilton had been so good as to consent for one quarter to establish a courier from Glasgow for the purposes abovementioned, and also to direct the postmaster of Newcastle in the event of the Edinburgh mails ariving after the London mail was gone, to forward the same by express till it overtook the pacquet, upon assurance being given Mr Hamilton of his being indemnified of the expence incase the board at London would not allow thereof, and if such indemnification became necessary the committee would be pleased to consider wither it would not be proper for them to recommend the same to be allowed by the next annual convention of burrows; the preeses further represented that a question had arose wither it would be for the general good of the country to dispatch the whole inland posts on Wednesdays at nine, ten, or eleven at night, or upon the Thursdays at twelve mid-day or at nine at night, and that he was desired to take the opinion of the honble. committee on that matter. All which being considered by the committee, they unanimously recommend to the next convention to defray any charge that may be incurr'd by the extraordinary courier from Glasgow for one quarter, and the charge of any express with the Scots mail from Newcastle till it overtake the pacquet, incase the board at London shall not be prevailed upon to allow the same; and the committee unanimously declare it as their opinion that the dispatching the whole inland mails upon Wednesday would be extremely inconvenient and detrimental to the city of Edinburgh, Leith, and the other places adjacent, as well as of bad consequence to Scotland in general, and recommend to the preeses to endeavour to have the time of dispatching the inland mails no earlier than Thursday night at nine o'clock, and to intimate this their sentiments to Mr Hamilton and Mr Wilson; and the

committee further recommend to the preeses to represent to the general postmasters at London that tho' they have agreed that the London mail shall regularly be dispatched at eight o'clock, yet the doing so is attended with great inconveniencys to the city of Edinburgh and neighbourhood, and to beg that every method may be tried to obtain an earlier arrival at Edinburgh with the mails from London, and to have the time of their departure delay'd for one or two hours later if possible.

EDINBURGH. 29 December 1758.

18 January 1759.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Lanerk, William Wilson; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Innerkeithing, Dr Henry Cunningham; Dumbarton, Archibald M'Aulay.

Sederunt.

The which day Mr Hugh Forbes, the agent, acquainted the committee that he having sent a quartering order on the Laird of Touchadden for the cess and missive dues of the town of Saint Ninians, for which town Touchadden accepted of the communication of trade from the burrows, Touchadden had thereupon offer'd a bill of suspension of the said order to the Lords of Session, and was going to raise a reduction of the bond granted by his predecessors to the burrows for payment of the cess; that the Lords having refused the suspension, Mr Forbes had caused search for a former proces in the year seventeen hundred and thirty , raised at Touchadden's instance against the burrows, wherein after a long litigation the Lords found Touchadden lyable for the cess and missive dues then due, and likewise found him and his successors lyable for it in all time coming; that as Touchadden had never appeal'd from this judgement, it was conclusive, and therefore Mr Forbes beg'd the committee would consider wither it would not be proper to extract that decreet. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint the agent to extract the said decreet and to charge whatever expence he has been put to in this affair in his next accompt to the burrows.

EDINBURGH. 2 March 1759. Sederunt.

2 March 1759.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Montrose, Alexander Scott; Lanerk, William Wilson; Wigtoun, David Baird; Rothsay, Alexander M'Millan; Pittenweem, David Loch; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Dingwall, John Dingwall.

The which day the committee having taken into their consideration the thirty-fifth act of the last general convention, whereby it is remitted to them to consider a memorial presented to the said convention representing the inconveniencys attending the herring ffishing on the lakes and bays near the western isles of Scotland for want of a customhouse in some centrical place for the clearing of vessels outward bound, either foreign or coastways, and pointing at the advantages that would result to this beneficial branch of trade if a customhouse was erected at Stornaway in the island of Lewes, the present customhouse being either so remote from the proper places of fishing or of such difficult and uncertain navigation that the trade was thereby greatly obstructed; and praying the convention would apply to the honble. trustees for the improvement of manufactures and fisherys in Scotland, and to the honble. the commissioners of his Majestie's customs in order to the procuring a proper establishment for erecting a customhouse at Stornaway, whereby the delays and inconveniencys attending the trade of the herring ffishing might be removed. Which remitt with the said memorial being considered by the committee, and they being highly sensible that it is of the outmost importance, not only to the herring ffishing, but to the trade in general of this country, that a customhouse should be erected at the port of Stornaway in the island of Lewes, do therefore appoint the preeses and members for Edinburgh in their name to apply to the lords of the treasury, and to beg that they will appoint a proper establishment for a customhouse to be erected at the forsaid port of Stornaway, which will be greatly for the advantage of the herring ffishing and to trade in general.

24 March 1759.

EDINBURGH. 24 March 1759. Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., James Rochead & John Carmichaell; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Air, Andrew Hunter; Wigtoun, David Baird; Anstruther Easter, George Chalmers; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Lanerk, William Wilson.

The which day the preeses acquainted the committee that in obedience to the minute of last sederunt a memorial was prepared to the lords of the treasury for obtaining a proper establishment for erecting a customhouse at Stornaway in the island of Lewes; the committee authorize the preeses and members for Edinburgh in their name to sign the same and transmitt it to the lords of the treasury by this night's post.

The same day the preeses acquainted the committee that he had received a letter from the right honble. his Majestie's Privy Council, mentioning that whereas it is absolutely necessary in the present critical situation of affairs, when attempts may be made to invade these Kingdoms, that no time should be lost in the immediate equipment of his Majestie's fleet, and whereas there is the strongest reason to apprehend that great numbers of seamen and seafaring men are lurking about in different parts of this Kingdom on purpose to avoid his Majestie's service, it was his Majestie's express commands to cause search to be made in the most diligent and effectual manner in every part within the jurisdiction and libertys of this city for all seamen and seafaring men, not above the age of fifty nor under the age of twenty years, who shall be of health and ability fit for his Majestie's service that shall be found lurking or conceal'd there, and to cause them to be seized and taken up by the constables or other proper officers and delivered to a sea officer employed in raising men on shore, or to a commander of any ship, sloop, or tender belonging to his Majesty at Edinburgh; and as an encouragement to the constables and other persons to exert themselves at this juncture in taking up seamen and delivering

EDINBURGH. 24 March 1759.

them as aforsaid, his Majesty directed that an allowance of twenty shillings for each seaman fit for his Majestie's service shall be paid to the said constables or other persons who shall deliver such seamen by the said sea officer employ'd in raising men on shore or by the commander of any ship, sloop, or tender belonging to his Majesty at Edinr. to whom such seamen shall be delivered, out of the moneys directed to be furnished them for that purpose by the principal officers and commissioners of his Majesty's navy; and whereas his Majesty has been graciously pleased to order that a bounty of three pounds for every able seaman, and of thirty shillings for every ordinary seaman, not above the age of fifty nor under the age of twenty years should be paid to all such able and ordinary seamen who shall voluntary appear and enter themselves on board his Majestie's ships of war; and it was his Majestie's express commands to the lord provost of Edinburgh that he do receive all such seamen not above the age of fifty nor under the age of twenty years who shall so appear before him and offer to enter voluntarily into his Majestie's said service (to each of whom he is to grant a certificate of such voluntary offer), and afterwards to cause them to be conducted to the same place, where the conductors are to be paid the same allowances as are before directed with respect to stragling seamen; and the said respective bountys of three pounds and thirty shillings are to be paid to such volunteer seamen immediatly after they shall be put on board any of his Majestie's ships or vessels, by the commanders of such ships or vessels, out of the moneys directed to be furnished them for that purpose by the principal officers and commissioners of his Majestie's navy, and his Majesty does expect that the provost will use his utmost care and dilligence in carrying these commands into immediate and punctual execution, and to transmitt from time to time an account of what shall be done in pursuance thereof; the preeses therefore submitted to the committee whether it would not be proper for them, in order to show their willingness to do every thing in their power for promoting his Majestie's service, to direct him as their preeses to write to the

magistrats of all the burrows in Scotland desiring them to use their utmost endeavours in procuring of men for maning his Majestie's fleet. Which being considered by the committee, and they being highly sensible that it is of the utmost importance in the present critical situation of affairs, when attempts may be made to invade these Kingdoms, that no time should be lost in the immediate equipment of his Majestie's fleet, do therefore appoint their preeses in their name to write to the magistrats of all the burrows, warmly recommending to them to use their utmost dilligence in procuring men for the immediate equipment of his Majesty's fleet, so necessary in the present critical situation of affairs, and also to signify to the right honble. his Majestie's Privy Council this their willingness to concurr in every measure for promoting his Majestie's service. EDINBURGH. 24 March 1759.

31 March 1759.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., James Rochead; Bruntisland, James Stwart; Air, Andrew Hunter; Wigtown, David Baird; Anstr. Easter, George Chalmers; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm. Sederunt.

The which day the preeses represented that notwithstanding the unanimous resolution of the committee with regard to the settling of the inland posts, their going out from and coming into this city, particularly with respect to the posts continuing to carry out the mail as uswall on the Thursdays nights, yet he understood that this determination was not agreeable to several of the most considerable burrows, owing probably to their not fully understanding the matter, having had no representative present in that meeting of the committee, tho' it is proposed that the foreign and London letters shall always be dispatched to the country on Wednesday night by an additional post; that as this affair is of great importance to the state of burrows, it was to be wished it could be settled with the approbation of every one burgh in Scotland, and as Mr Wilson, the surveyor of the post office in London, now here,

EDINBURGH. 31 March. 1759.

is unwilling to delay the making his report to the post masters general in London any longer, he submitted it to the committee wether it would not be proper that a generall meeting of the members of the burrows should be called to deliberate with the committee in settling this affair. Which being considered by the committee, and they being desirouse to have this matter, which will be greatly to the advantage of the trade of this part of the Kingdom, so settled as to have the approbation of all the burrows, do therefore appoint their preeses to write to all the burrows and to desire if they have not their representative (principal or assessor) in the last convention here in Edinburgh, that they will send up one of them, or authorize any other person they think proper of the greatest knowledge and experience in trade and correspondence to meet with the committee on the twenty-fifth day of April next at Edinburgh, and to assist them in determining this affair, which was done accordingly.

25 April 1759.

Sederunt.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., John Carmichaell & James Rochead & Thomas Simpson; Aberdeen, James Burnet; Glasgow, Collin Dunlop; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Coupar, John Inglis; Innerkeithing, Dr Henry Cunningham; Anstr. Easter, George Chalmer; Tain, John Stephen; Montrose, Alexr. Scott; Perth, William Stewart; North Berwick, William Hog; Dysert, James Hunter; Stirling, Thomas Hogg; Pittenweem, David Loch; Whithorn, John M'Gowan; Forres, Robert Donaldson; Ruthglen, Robert Spense; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Inverness, John Frazer; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Kilrenny, Andrew Waddell; Haddingtown, Andrew Dickson.

The which day the remit of the last general convention to the annual committee, with regard to the settleing the araingement of the inland posts of this country, and the proceedings of the committee thereupon being read, the same were approved of; but the preeses in order to remove the particular objections made by some burrows to the general scheme of the arrival and departure of the inland posts in this city, and

EDINBURGH, 25 April 1759.

that the benefite of the new establishment might be rendered as extensive as possible to the whole country, gave in the following proposal—That the great north and west maills should arrive at Edinburgh on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at six or seven in the morning, and should set out from Edinburgh at nine or ten of the clock at night on the same days, but in case of the London maills being detained by any accident longer in coming in than uswall, that the inland post should at no time set out from Edinburgh untill four hours after the arrival of the London maill; that previous to any alteration of the present course of the post to London, an application should be made for establishing an additional post to set out on Wednesday night at nine o'clock from Edinburgh for the west, through Falkirk and Glasgow as far as Greenock, with branches to Borrowstonness and Stirling, and another post, also to set out at the same hour, through Perth and Dundee as far as Aberdeen, with branches to Dumfermling and the east coast of Fife, in order to carry all the letters that arrive that day from England and such others as may be wrote from Edinburgh in to those parts of the country, without waiting the course of the Thursday's post; that previous also to any alteration in the course of the post to London, an application should be made for establishing an additional post to set out from Glasgow on Monday at eleven forenoon by Whitburn and to arrive at Edinburgh about five afternoon, in order to prevent the inconveniencys that would otherwise arise in that large city by the maills coming in and going out there on Sunday. Which proposall being considered by the committee, they unanimously approve of the same (except the members for the burghs of Aberdeen, Montrose, and Inverness, who declared that as they had not instructions from their constituents for agreeing thereto they could not now explicitely consent to it, but hoped to be properly authorized for that purpose in a few days or before the committee should meet again), and the committee remitt to the members for Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, Aberbrothock, Annan, Montrose, Anstr. Easter, and Pittenweem, or any three of them, to prepare a draught of an application to the right honble. his Majestie's post masters general, in order to obtain

EDINBURGH, 25 April 1759.

the two additional posts abovementioned, and for the puting the whole scheme in execution without loss of time according to the plan above proposed; and in regard much of the benefite to arrise from this plan depends on the shortning of the time of the mails coming thither from London, the sub-committee are directed in this application to the post-masters general to pray in the most earnest manner that every possible method may be taken to attain this end, and that they will also be pleased to give orders for forwarding the Edinburgh maill by express till it overtake the pacquet, if at any time by any accident it's prevented of reaching Newcastle before the setting out of the London maill from thence; the draught of which application is to be laid before the committee at their next meeting for their approbation before the preeses sends it off; and the committee further unanimously resolve that incase an attempt should be made at any time hereafter to take away the additional posts abovementioned on Mondays and Wednesdays after they are once established, that the burrows will then use their utmost joint intrest to have them continued.

The same day there was presented to the committee a memorial from the Synod of Glasgow and Air, and another from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, representing the great inconveniencys that would attend the alterations in the course of the post whereby people might be disturbed in their devotions in such places within their bounds where, by the new scheme, the post day will fall to be on Sunday, and particularly in Glasgow. Which being considered by the committee, they appoint the members for Glasgow and Montrose to waite on the members of the said Synods who presented the said memorials, and to acquaint them that the committee before presenting thereof had considered of the said inconveniency, and on that account were to endeavour to have an additional post established to set out from Glasgow on the Mundays at eleven o'clock forenoon whereby these inconveniencys will be in a great measure removed.

The same day there was presented to the committee a memorial for

the burgh of Annan setting furth an inconveniency they labour'd under by the detention of their letters from Edinburgh upon the Mundays at Drumlangrige, and craving the assistance of the committee with Mr Hamilton, the postmaster general, to get the same removed; which the committee agree to, and appoint their preeses to recommend the same to Mr Hamilton accordingly.

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The same day the member for Aberbrothock moved that as Mr Wilson, the surveyor of the post office from London, now here, had been at great pains and trouble about the affairs of the posts in this country so as to have them put on a proper footing, and as he could be extreamly usefull in procuring the execution of the scheme above-mentioned for the general good, and he doubted not would give his assistance therein and also to obtain an earlier arrival of the London maills at Edinburgh, which was so much wanted, that the committee would recommend it to the next annual convention to make Mr Wilson a present as a mark of their regard for his services. Which being considered by the committee, they unanimously recommend it to the next annual convention to make Mr Wilson a present as a mark of their esteem and regard for his services in this affair, which is so much for the intrest of this part of Britain, and particularly to the state of burrows.

The same day there was laid before the committee a report from the burghs of Dunbar, Selkirk, and Lauder with respect to the condition of the town of Jedburgh, with an account of the funds of the said town and debts and burdens affecting the same; the committee referr the consideration thereof to the next annual convention.

30 April 1759.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Edinburgh, James Rochead & John Carmichaell; Aberdeen, Mr Andrew Burnet; Stirling, Mr Thomas Hogg; Montrose, Alexander Scott; Air, Andrew Hunter; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Innerkeithing, Dr Henry Cunningham; Tain, John

Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 30 April 1759 Sederunt.

Stephen; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Aberbrothock, Adam Fairholm; Inverness, John Frazer; Lanerk, William Wilson; Anstr. Easter, George Chalmers; Pittenweem, David Loch.

The which day the preeses presented the draught of an application to the postmasters general, prepared by the sub-committee, for having the whole of the schem for regulating the posts as mentioned in the last sederunt of the committee put in execution without loss of time. Which being read, the committee approve thereof and appoint the same to lye in the clerk's hands so as the members may have access thereto, and to lodge with him such amendments as they shall judge proper, all which the committee will take under consideration at their next meeting; and Mr James Burnet, advocate, as representing the town of Aberdeen, being present set forth that he had now got full instructions from his town, by whom he was directed to oppose that part of the scheme by which the post coming from London on the Wednesday was to be detained in Edinburgh till the Thursday evening, and to insist that the post from London should set out that very day for the north so that they may have their London letters as soon as possible, for it did not appear to the town of Aberdeen that the expedient proposed of an extraordinary mail coming off upon the Wednesday evening was sufficient, and therefore they insisted that the ordinary post should set out for the north on that day; and if the committee would not agree to this, they desired at least that they would delay determining any thing finally in the matter till it should be more fully considered; and if the committee would not grant this neither, they enter'd their dissent from their proceedings so far as respects the regulation of the Wednesday's post, and protested they might be at liberty to seek redress as they best could. Which being considered by the committee, they remitt to the members for Edinburgh, Bruntisland, Anstr. Easter, Aberbrothock, and Tain to draw up answers to the said dissent and protest against next meeting of the committee.

The same day there was read to the committee a memorial for the

town of Inverness and the other burghs to the north thereof, seting furt some inconveniencys they labour'd under by the mails which should arrive at Inverness from Aberdeen on the forenoon of Wednesday and Fridays their seldom coming there till after five afternoon of these days, at which hour the mails are dispatched from Inverness to Aberdeen, by which means they intirely lose the advantage of two mails in the week: and likewise complaining of the dilatory course of the post from Inverness to Aberdeen, by which the mail from Aberdeen is frequently dispatched before the letters from Inverness arrive at that town, and craving the committee would recommend to the post mr. general for Scotland to give directions for the regularity and dispatch of the mails from Aberdeen to Inverness and in returning to Aberdeen. Which being considered by the committee, they recommend to the burghs of Edinburgh, Bruntisland, Tain, Aberbrothock, and Anstr. Easter to meet with Mr Hamilton, the post master general, and endeavour to get the grivances mentioned in the memorial removed.

EDINBURGH. 30 April 1759.

15 May 1759.

George Drummond, Esqr., preeses; Edinbr., John Carmichaell; Innerkeithing, Dr Henry Cunningham; Inverness, John Frazer; Bruntisland, James Stuart; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Inverury, Walter Ferguson; Montrose, Alexander Scott; Coupar, John Inglis; Anstr. Easter, George Chalmers; Whithorn, John M'Gowan.

Sederunt.

The which day the member for Montrose acquainted the committee that he had now got a return from his constituents, whereby he was impowered for them to consent to the proposed alterations on the araingement of the inland posts under this express condition, that the additional post to set out from Edinburgh for the north on the Wednesdays evening shall be established; and the committee having resumed the consideration of the draught of the application to the postmasters general in London for having the whole of the proposed scheme for regulating the araingements of the posts put in execution,

EDINBURGH. 15 May 1759.

they approve of the draught of the application and appoint the preeses in their name to sign the same and transmitt it to Mr Shelvock, the secretary of the post office in London, with a letter to him beging he will lay the application before the postmasters general with the first opertunity, and use his endeavours to procure a favourable answer to what is pray'd for in the application; and of which application and letter the tenor follows:—

Edinr., 15th May 1759.

To the Right Honble. His Majestie's Postmasters General, Memorial for the Royal Burrows of Scotland assembled by their representatives at Edinburgh, the twenty-fifth day of April last, to deliberate upon a proper disposition of the inland North & West mails of Scotland so as to make them to correspond in the best manner with the intended new arrangement of the posts from Edinburgh to London.

The memorialists acknowledge themselves to be under great obligations to the honble. board for committing the care of the new establishment of the posts in this part of the Kingdom to a person of such knowledge & abilities as Mr Wilson, the surveyor, who has exerted great skill and bestowed much pains to have the whole settled on the most proper and equal footing. Some difficultys, however, have occurred, particularly in adapting the great inland mails at Edinburgh to those of London; Mr Wilson does not think himself at liberty to adjust these without new directions from the board, which occasions the trouble of this application.

The mails from London arrive at Edinburgh on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Saturdays at a medium through the year between 2 and 3 in the afternoon, some hours sooner in summer and later in winter; by the new plan they must be dispatched for London on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays precisely at eight at night, and the letters must be given in by seven o'clock—here, by the way, it may be observed that the inhabitants of Edinburgh who leave near the office, after allowing an hour & a half for sorting the letters, will have generally

EDINBURGH. 15 May 1759.

about three hours only for making answers on Mondays & Saturdays, and those who live in the suburbs and Leith will have much less time, so that frequently many of the traders, and sometimes in winter all of them, will lose the opertunity of making answers in course upon these two nights—an earlier arrival, therefore, of the mails at Edinbr., or some hours later dispatch from thence if it can possibly be obtained, is absolutely essentiall and necessary, and the memorialists hope the honble. board will not lose sight of this if any method can be afterwards fallen upon to obtain so desirable an end.

In order to adapt the great north & west inland mails in the best manner to those of London above recited, it is obvious that the former ought if possible to arrive at Edinbr. and be dispatched from thence on the same days that are fixed for the arrival & dispatch of the London mails, because otherwise the country letters in passing and repassing thro' Edinburgh would be unnecessaryly detain'd there.

This arrangement is already observed as to Saturday, which at present is the day of arrival and dispatch of all the mails at Edinburgh.

But the departure of the London post from Edinburgh being by the new plan changed from Twesday to Monday, occasions the inland post day to be changed to Monday also; this alteration is inconvenient in several respects at Edinburgh, but the inhabitants have consented to it for the general good.

That alteration, however, necessarily makes Sunday to become a post day in a variety of towns within a certain distance of Edinburgh, which proves very hurtful to correspondence, tho' it would seem that no method can be devised to remedy this any of them except Glasgow.

The inconveniency, indeed, is chiefly felt in that city, which carrys on a very extensive trade & correspondence, and where many articles of business especially in money & bills of exchange must necessarly be transacted every post day & are such as cannot be executed on Sundays.

The city of Glasgow, however, by its particular situation can admit of an easy remedy if an express maill or post is dispatched from thence

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to Edinbr. on Monday forenoon at ten or eleven o'clock by the way of Whitburn, which is six computed miles nearer than by the great post road.

The expence of this mail may be reckoned about £20 p. annum, but this charge will be much overpaid by the great number of letters which an additional post will occasion from so large a trading city and its neighbourhood, and especially as the laudable disposition of the inhabitants of Glasgow for a religious observation of the Sunday would in a great measure prevent their writing letters on that day by the ordinary mail.

The third great post day for the arrival and dispatch of the inland posts at Edinr. is and has always been Thursday, which answers very well for preventing the country letters from lying at Edinburgh any unnecessary time before they are dispatched for England; but as the London mail arrives at Edinburgh on the Wednesday afternoon, the letters from England are thus detained at Edinburgh before they are dispatched in to the country till Thursday night.

This is hurtfull to the correspondence of the towns beyond Edinburgh, especially to Glasgow and Aberdeen, who are therefore extreamly desirous and earnestly insist to have their English letters forwarded on Wednesday night.

An alteration of the inland post day at Edinburgh to Wednesday would effectuate this and convey the letters from England about twenty-one hours earlier into the country beyond Edinburgh, but it would be attended with equal disadvantages to the country correspondence back to England, as it would occasion all their letters from England to lye about twenty-seven hours longer in their passage through Edinr. than they did formerly, and twenty-four hours more than would be necessary if Thursday continued to be the inland post day.

It would occasion many towns at a certain distance to lose that post in making answers to England or Edinbr. by the mails returning a day sooner than uswall, it would also extremely emberass the correspondence of the whole country with Edinburgh, especially as to affairs of money

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and exchange, which center chiefly in that city and cannot be transacted generally speaking but on the post day out to London, for, without mentioning other circumstances, if Wednesday were made the inland post day, the country could have no advice of the Thursday's transactions in that branch of business before the Saturday's post following, tho' it will certainly be the greatest post day at Edinburgh; further, the merchants and others in Edinbr., Leith, &ca., can upon no consideration dispense with Thursdays being the post day for the arrival and dispatch of the inland mails, because they would, by a change, subject themselves to many very great inconveniencys too numerous to be repeated here, but chiefly respecting their principal business of money & exchange which would be much hurt by such an alteration, and the whole credite of North Britain of course affected and lessened in some measure; the disadvantages to Edinburgh if this post was to be changed from Thursday to Wednesday would be such, when joined to the inconvenience arising from the short intervals between the arrival and dispatch of the London mails on Saturday and Monday, and the change of this last post day from Twesday to Monday as abovementioned, that they would over ballance (as to that city) the whole advantages it can receive by the new arrangement.

The people of Edinburgh presume therefore that no attempt will ever be made to alter that post day, especially as it is obvious the new course of the post to London has no sort of dependance thereon but would, on the contrary, be rendered more difficult and perhaps more expensive by such a change, and it would certainly hurt the revenue of the post office by throwing a vast number of letters into the channell of carriers, &ca., if there was no inland post day out from Edinburgh between Wednesday and Saturday.

An easie remedy, however, occurrs to convey the southern intelligence in the speediest manner to the towns beyond Edinburgh without the inconveniency of detaining their letters at Edinburgh for twenty-four hours unnecessarly in their passage up to London and without changing the Thursdays post at Edinr.

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This remedy is to establish an express or additional mail of the nature of a Monday, Wednesday, or Ffridays byepost round London to set out from Edinburgh on the Wednesday night at nine or ten o'clock by the great west road through Glasgow, and to go as far as Greenock, with the uswall branches to Bo-ness and Stirling, but not to return; as also another express or additional mail to set out at the same time by the great north road through Perth, to go as far as Aberdeen, with a branch along the coast of Ffife.

The expense of these mails, including that of the Monday's mail from Glasgow by Whitburn, may amount in all to about £120 to £140 yearly.

The two mails to and from the west country will certainly increase the uswall revenue, and there is little doubt but that the expence of the mail to the north will also be a good deal overpaid by the additional number of letters it will naturally occasion from Edinburgh and other parts of such a popoulus tract of towns and country as that through which it passes.

It is evident these establishments will greatly promote the communication of intelligence to and from London and Edinburgh with all parts of North Britain, and thereby serve equally the purposes of trade & government; and that it will soon increase the neat produce of the revenue of the post office is so evident that many persons at Edinburgh would be willing to farm the produce of the two respective inland post days as they now stand at the full amount of what they formerly produced, with the burden of establishing the additional posts abovementioned at their own expence.

The memorialists therefore humbly pray that his Majestie's postmasters general would be pleased to order the establishment of the additional posts above proposed,—vizt., one from Glasgow on Monday by Whitburn for Edinburgh, one upon Wednesday from Edinburgh by the great west road to go as far as Greenock, and one by the great north road through Perth to go as far as Aberdeen, with the branches abovementioned on both roads.

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By these methods the memorialists apprehend the correspondence of the United Kingdoms will be greatly accomodated and in a short time enlarged, and they doubt not but by them and by the great abilitys and unwearyed endeavours of Mr Wilson, the surveyor, to promote the intrest as well of trade as of the revenue, that the neat produce of the post office will soon be remarkably increased in North Britain.

Sign'd Geo. Drummond.

Follows letter by the preeses to Mr Shelvock, secretary to the post office in London.

Sir,—Several difficulties having occurred in adapting the disposition of the inland mails at Edinburgh to the new arrangement of the posts to London, after many deliberations on this subject I judged it proper, in order to obtain the universal approbation of the trading interest of this part of the United Kingdom to the plan that was to be settled, to call a meeting of the burrows of Scotland, giving them notice in the summonds sent them that it was called on purpose to have their advice about what we should resolve on in this important affair.

They accordingly met here by their representatives very frequently on the 25th ulto., and, next to unanimously, they agreed on the memorial, which by their order, in their presence, as their preeses, I signed and have the honor to inclose to you.

I say next to unanimously, because only the representative of one burgh—vizt., the town of Aberdeen—delay'd giving his approbation thereto till he had laid the plan proposed again before his constituents, which he has done, and I have now the provost of that town's answer to what was wrote to him on this subject, whose only objection to what we pray for is an apprehension that tho' the post master general may agree to the express mails being dispatched northward on Wednesday as proposed in our memorial at present, it may afterwards be dropt; this objection we are fully convinced is very groundless, as the measure is a most reasonable and an absolutely necessary one, greatly for the benefite

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of trade, and what in my opinion will also increase the revenue of the post office.

If there is a new board established, I beg the favour of you to lay our memorial before them; if there is not, and that the direction of this matter remains still with you, I presume from the many instances we have had on former occasions of your good offices to promote correspondence, to depend on you for giving the necessary orders to give an immediate begining to this important and long wished for schem. I have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir, your most faithfull and most obedient humble servt.

Signed Geo. Drummond, preses.

Edinr., 15th May 1759.

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